The Black Cat

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December 1901

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The Mystery of the Savage Sump.*

BY SAM DAVIS.

IT was more than twenty years ago that Virginia City, Nev., first wrestled with what was known as "The mystery of the Savage Sump."

The sump of the Savage mine is an excavation at the foot of the incline where the hot water of the mine collects in volume, and from whence it is pumped into the Sutro tunnel, steaming, scalding hot. The Sutro tunnel strikes the great Comstock ledge 1,750 feet below the surface, and is the drain pipe through which all the water in the Comstock mines is discharged. It runs through the boxes in the tunnel nearly five miles before it reaches the lower mouth of the tunnel and from thence finds its way into the Carson River. The sump is more than three thousand feet below the surface, and when this point was reached it marked the limit of man's ability to pierce the depths of the earth on the Comstock ledge.

The water came in so fast that the big pumps had to be kept constantly at work to prevent the flooding of the lower levels.

One morning the miners who came off the three o'clock shift

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reported the finding of the body of a man in the sump. It was a horrible, shapeless thing, with the flesh cooked in the hot water and the features unrecognizable. The body, what was left of it, was exposed in the morgue for more than a week, but not identified. Several thousand men were working in the mines at the time, but the roll of the Miners' Union and the tally sheet of the Savage mine showed no one missing.

Beside this it was noticed that the corpse had on fine boots with high heels. It also had on remnants of clothes, and portions of a broadcloth coat were fished up from the sump. It could not have been a miner, and those who had charge of the incline leading to the sump were positive that no such man had ever gone down. There was but one way of reaching it and that was by riding down on a sort of cage known as the "giraffe," let down and pulled up by a cable worked by machinery running in the hoisting works above ground.

The men who were employed in the responsible positions about the mine were all of the most trustworthy character, and had been employed there for years. No one could enter the mine without a permit from the superintendent, and even then no visitor ever went into the lower levels, where the hot water dripped from the rocks and the heat was sometimes as high as 140 degrees in places where the half-naked men worked with cold water playing from a hose on their bodies.

If it was a murder, who could possibly be implicated? The authorities and the newspapers and the officers of the Miners' Union and the superintendents of the mines investigated the mystery on separate lines, and after a year of probing it was as much a mystery as on the day the body was discovered floating about, swollen and distorted, in the foul and steaming waters of the sump.

As the years passed the incident was well-nigh forgotten, but now, at this remote time, I am able to furnish the world with a complete solution.

If the reader will take the pains to look over the files of the San Francisco papers during the latter part of 1869 and the spring of '70, some of the most violent fluctuations that ever occurred in the mining stock-market will be noticed. One and the same narra-

tion tells the story of the death of the unknown man found in the Savage sump and the rise and fall of mining stock at the time mentioned. In the fall of '69 a San Francisco stock speculator was spending a few weeks at Lake Tahoe, the summer resort in the Sierra Mountains, which lie partly in Nevada and partly in California.

Wishing to be out of the way of the world as much as possible, he engaged quarters at a little secluded place on the Nevada side of the lake, known as Cornelian Bay. It was a cheap and out-of-the-way place, and not over a dozen guests were there at a time, but the fishing was excellent and the surroundings pleasant. The tourist's name was William Meeker, and he had lost a large fortune in the whirl of stock speculations on California Street.

One morning, while fishing about a mile from the hotel, he noticed that his boat began slowly turning, and in a few minutes described a complete circle in the water. Some chips and débris were collected about the boat and they seemed to stay there. He studied the situation carefully and reached the conclusion that there was some subterranean outlet which caused the eddy.

He was a man of quick action, and that night he carved the initials W. M. on a piece of pine, and next morning rigged up a weight at the end of a line and, fastening the stick to the weight, rowed out and lowered it into the water where his boat had been affected by the currents. It went down in about a hundred feet of water and then something began bearing it down. There was a succession of tugs and the line began spinning over the edge of the boat with rapidly increasing speed. Then the line caught in the boat and snapped with the strain. This made it clear to him that the water was surging through an outlet in the lake bottom. That night he settled his bill and started for San Francisco.

He took but one man into his confidence and that was Colonel Clair, one of the heaviest and most unscrupulous operators in the market and a member of the biggest firm on the street. They figured for more than a week with maps and surveys and reached the conclusion that the water making its exit from the lake was finding its outlet in the lower levels of the Comstock mines.

They pored over statistical tables showing how the lake had been, on an average, at least one foot higher before the mines in

Virginia City had encountered water in the lower levels, and to them the mystery of the fall in the water of the lake was explained.

It was decided to send a man into the Savage, to watch for the piece of pine with Meeker's initials on. But why trust it to a third party? Meeker himself went to Virginia City, and on a letter of recommendation from Colonel Clair was given work in the Savage, and placed at the foot of the incline as a station tender.

He had not been long at his post when the little piece of wood with the initials W. M. came up on the surface of the waters of the sump and his heart gave a great bound of joy. That night he was flying to San Francisco on a fast train, and next morning was closeted with Colonel Clair, the mining operator and millionaire.

The plan these two men fixed on was the boldest ever conceived in the annals of stock speculation. It was nothing less than a method by which the hole in the bottom of Tahoe might be stopped by a mechanical contrivance and then opened and closed at will. By this means the mines might be cleared of water or flooded, to suit the convenience of the two operators, and this condition, having its influence on the stock-market, would make millions of money for the men who had conceived the bold design.

Before the week was over, Meeker, backed with the money of Colonel Clair, was back at Lake Tahoe. He ordered a large flatboat built, ostensibly for fishing purposes. It was completed in a couple of weeks and fitted with a good cabin, and here he took up his abode. From that on a lot of mysterious consignments reached Tahoe for Meeker, and he received them on his flatboat at Tahoe city and moved the boat from place to place by the aid of a small gasoline launch.

To all intents and purposes it was an angler's craft, the mere pastime of a man who had the money at his disposal to catch Tahoe trout in his own way.

It proved really a simple matter to stop the hole in the lake. Careful investigation showed it to be nearly circular and about four feet across. The dimensions of the hole being known approximately was sufficient. The butt of a log about five feet in diameter was given a conical shape, and bolts were sunk into the end, to

which a heavy chain was attached. This was connected with a windlass and let down through the "well" in the bottom of the boat. The well was enclosed in the rough-board house built on the boat, and on a calm day when the water was still, Clair and Meeker could see a long distance into the depths of the water, by the aid of a large mirror and the sunlight which came in through a hole in the roof of the house, reflected down the well.

Then came the grand test, when they let down the big plug. Slowly it was lowered until it was caught in the suction and the chain showed the strain. Then down, deeper and deeper it went in the mighty current, taking the handles of the windlass from the hands of the men and sending it whirling. It revolved like a buzz-saw for a few seconds, and then came to a standstill. It was evident that the plug had settled into the hole as far as it would go, and that the pressure of the water was keeping it there. The deflected light thrown down by the mirror showed that such was the case.

Could the plug be lifted back? The fate of their plot depended on the answer. The two men threw their weight on the handles of the windlass, but they could not budge it an inch. That night they bored holes in the windlass shaft and inserted long crowbars. With this improved leverage they succeeded with comparatively little trouble in drawing the plug out of the hole and lifting it beyond the influence of the suction. Several times they lowered and raised it again. That night Colonel Clair was on his way to San Francisco, leaving Meeker to guard the boat.

During the next ten days brokers who watched the market noticed that the firm of Goodman & Crowley were buying Savage in any lots offered. There was nothing special in the way of developments in the mine, and those who had become tired of holding Savage began to unload on a rising market. Presently the brokers who had the handling of the deal were active bidders on the stock. The tall form of Joe Goodman was soon noticeable in the centre of a gesticulating crowd, bidding up Savage. The price rose gradually, and still he stood calm and serene, as was his wont, and taking in all the Savage offered.

"Five thousand at twenty-six, buyer thirty."

Goodman took them, and ten thousand more at the same figure.

A little man rose and flung twenty thousand shares at Goodman. He took them without blinking.

There was a pause and the swirl of speculation seemed for a moment to have lost its momentum.

Thirty-five thousand shares inside a minute, and snapped up by one man, was not a usual thing. They waited to see what the calm, blue-eyed man would do, and if he would dare bid higher. Then his voice rang out:

"Twenty-seven for twenty-five thousand shares, buyer thirty."

In an instant the cry of "sold" was shouted at him from all sides of the Board room.

"Take 'em all," he cried, "and will give twenty-eight for fifty thousand more."

Not a sale was offered at those figures. Something was on. The brokers scented a big deal in Savage, and no one dared take his offer.

The session closed and in a few minutes the street was a scene of extraordinary excitement. The wires were hot between San Francisco and Virginia City with cipher dispatches, but no one could report anything extraordinary in Savage. There was no development, and the water in the lower levels required the full working capacity of the big Cornish pumps to hold it in control.

Goodman was a commission broker and evidently not speculating on his own hook, and Colonel Clair's brokers were selling Savage — but in mighty small lots.

Colonel Clair was moving about the street in front of the Exchange building, deprecating the idea of a rise in stocks not based on actual merit.

"Me son," he said to one of the curbstone brokers, "there can never be anything in buying Savage until the water is out of the lower levels."

Inside a week the water was nearly all out of the Savage, and also out of the adjoining mines, and stocks began to soar. The pumps all along the big lead were slowing down and the word went out that the water had been conquered at last and now the big bonanzas were going to be uncovered. Virginia City was happy and the Stock Exchange in San Francisco was a whirl of speculation.

Then Colonel Clair began shorting everything right in the midst of the flurry. He had sold and realized a cool million, and was now a bear. It seemed odd that this should be the case when the pumps had drained the lower levels almost dry and no water was coming in. Then, unexpectedly, the waters came into the lower levels in a great flood and caught the miners napping with the pumps barely moving. There was a crash in stocks when the news reached Pine Street, San Francisco, and everything went by the board. Colonel Clair cleaned up another million.

"I didn't think it could be permanent," he said.

Then came a series of rises and breaks in the market and Colonel Clair always "hit them just right." No man seemed so shrewd as he, and so the deals went on and his wealth accumulated. William Meeker had but to raise or lower the plug in Lake Tahoe according to advices.

One night, as Meeker was raising the plug with the big windlass, he became aware of a figure behind him. It was Colonel Clair, who had reached the spot by a boat.

"How is she working?"

"Never better."

"I have your share deposited in the Nevada Bank, and it is now over two million."

Meeker smiled and his heart bounded when he heard those words.

"How big the moon looks over yonder," exclaimed the Colonel.

Meeker turned his head, and a heavy iron bar crushed in his skull. Colonel Clair tied a weight to the body and lowered it into the depths. Down and down it slowly sank, and then the swirl sucked it into the hole and it was gone. Colonel Clair lowered the plug.

An Arabian Night.*

BY JAMES RAYMOND PERRY.

CLOSED my book and glanced at the clock on the mantel. The hands pointed to 10.10. Not yet too late for a stroll.

The avenue was still as populous as at any hour during the evening. Vehicles were passing, bicycles sped past, and numerous pedestrians like myself were out for a stroll.

"It is too noisy here," I thought, "I will seek a quieter street." So, turning east, I walked a few squares and came to an avenue running through an aristocratic quarter of the city. Here it was very quiet. Few equipages were passing; a whole square could be traversed without encountering a single pedestrian. As for the porches of the mansions, they were in nearly every case deserted. Indeed, the mansions themselves for the most part had a look of desertion. In few instances could a light be seen at the front of the house, but at many places the boarded-up doors and windows gave conclusive evidence of the absence of owners.

The dim light in the street was quite in accord with my mood, and it had this added advantage, that the stars were more conspicuous here than in the well-lighted avenue I had left; and I dearly love the stars. The sky was clear, despite the sultriness of the air, and strolling along I gazed as often above me as towards the house-fronts which I was passing. The constellation Cygnus brought the recollection of something I had recently read, and I laughed softly. It was a passage in Stevenson's "Prince Otto," — "A shaving of new moon had lately arisen, but was not luminous enough to dim the stars." When I had come upon the passage I thought, "Ah! now I've caught you napping," and I even made a pencil annotation on the margin of the page to the effect that *new* moons never rise after dark.

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But now my little laugh was directed towards myself, for I perceived how dull I had been. It is quite true that the new moon does not rise after dark, and so keen an observer and so intelligent a man as Stevenson knew very well that it does not. It was merely one of his fine touches equivalent to saying, "Here is a misstatement obvious to the dullest. Think but a moment and you will see my meaning. In this realm that I am describing new moons do arise after dark. Nature is subverted. Hence, your conclusion must be: There never was any such kingdom."

From "Prince Otto" I fell to thinking of "The Dynamiters," which I had been reading that very evening. How delightful it would be, I thought, if one could really meet with such adventures as Challoner's, Somerset's and Desborough's. How humdrum was this, my own city of the West, where no romantic adventures ever befell. I felt a foolish impatience and a longing to have some Arabian Nights' adventure come to me. Why could not something happen to me? Surely strange and curious things did happen — even here in this dull city. Plenty of tragic things had happened on this very street. Even now I was passing a sombre mansion whose master not long before had wandered off at dawn and found for himself a suicide's grave in the neighboring tide. Near by dwelt a potentate about whom Gossip, behind her fan, whispered strange and dreadful tales; and not far away lived another with a drunken wife and an imbecile son. Yes, this calm and elegant neighborhood was rich with horrors!

Musing thus, I approached one of the most palatial of the many great mansions on that street of opulence. Surrounded by grounds of considerable extent, it was set back from the street a goodly distance. In front was a noble porch, and at the side a lofty *porte cochère* spanned the paved carriage-way to the stables in the rear. The stone of which the mansion was built was dark of hue, and the walls were plentifully draped with a luxuriant growth of ivy.

I had paused for a moment near the broad walk leading up to the porch, to gaze at this picture, which, albeit gloomy in tone, was not lacking in architectural and artistic values.

Unlike many of its neighbors, it showed some faint evidence of occupation. Through one of the great windows at the front, over which fell some loose tendrils of ivy, a light within was dimly

visible. It seemed to emanate not from the room where the window was, but from one beyond and back of it; moreover, so feeble was its radiance that I conjectured the light must either be turned low or deeply shaded.

I was about to move on when, from the thick blackness of the deep porch, a more solid shadow suddenly detached itself, and there came a quick rush of feminine skirts down the walk towards me.

"Oh, Mr. Robert!" cried a singularly rich voice, "I'm so glad you've come. Your mother has asked for you again and again to-night. Come — come quick!" and to hasten my somewhat reluctant steps the girl seized me lightly but firmly by the arm, and hurried me up the walk towards the house.

Now, my name is not Mr. Robert, and it was quite plain that this young lady had mistaken me in the darkness for another; so, when I tell you that I followed her — indeed, she gave me no time to demur — you must remember in palliation of my act that I had come fresh from reading those stories of Stevenson, and had something more than a vague hope in my breast that I might meet with adventure. Here was the very sort of thing I had yearned for! Added to this was a sense that I might be needed, even though I were not Mr. Robert; for in the girl's words, "Come — come quick!" there had been a frightened note; and they had ended, I thought, in almost a sob. Perhaps some one was in danger, and this was no time to bring up a dispute over identity. So into the shadow of the porch, past open doors and through a hall whose only light came from the shaded lamp in a room beyond, I followed the girl, who had now dropped my arm, apparently satisfied that I would follow. Across the room where the lamp stood, to a door standing open, the girl swiftly led me, and in a low voice I heard her say, "He is here, Mrs. Sovereign; Robert — Mr. Robert, has come."

The dim light, the lowered voice of the girl, and the odor of drugs combined to make me know that I was entering a sick room. I would gladly have paused on the threshold and told the girl I was an impostor, though an unwilling one, but I could not. Call it defect of will if you like; to me it seemed that some irresistible force was now urging me on into that chamber of sickness.

Indeed, force was being used, light, though compelling; for the girl had now seized my hand and held it in hers as we crossed swiftly the shadowy room to a bedside, where she sank upon her knees; and I, still impelled to follow, sank upon mine at her side.

"Oh, Mrs. Sovereign, dear Mrs. Sovereign, he has come! Robert has come." Suppressed though it was into the softest tones, the girl's voice, freighted with deep emotion, thrilled me through.

Kneeling there, I found my face close to a face on the pillow; a woman's face, sick — as I could see even in the semi-darkness — unto death. The eyes were large and dark, and the features showed traces of great beauty. But all was ruin there now. The hair was gray and the face thin and covered with marks of suffering. A hand was raised weakly to where mine had fallen, the fingers closed about it with feeble yet tenacious clasp, and a weak voice whispered in my ear, "O my son! God bless you, my son, for coming! O Robbie!" Emotion seemed to exhaust her for a moment, but she began in a yet lower whisper, "I was afraid, Robbie, you wouldn't come; and it seemed as if I couldn't die without having you again. But you are here now, my good son, my dear son! and, Robbie, promise me — I cannot live long, only a few hours — promise me you will not leave me again before I die."

How was I tortured with conflicting purposes! How hideous was my position and how I loathed myself for being there! To carry out the rôle that I had thus suddenly, and almost without volition, been thrust into; to deceive a dying woman, to let her continue to believe me the son whom she had waited and longed for, and whose fancied presence now so clearly comforted her, was repulsive beyond expression. It was acting a lie in the presence of death itself, when, if ever, one would fain act only truth. But, on the other hand, could I have the heart to disabuse her of the illusion and tell her that I was not that beloved one whose presence she seemed to crave more than any other? What if Providence, careless of my own suffering, had seized upon me to fill that son's place and so comfort the few remaining hours of this poor woman? Dare I fly in the face of Providence? Repugnant as it was to my sense of truth and honor to deceive a dying woman, was it not really the nobler part so to deceive her, since through the deception would flow happiness to her?

In very pity for her and for myself, I buried my face in the pillow and sobbed aloud.

Then I felt a thin, weak hand wandering over my hair and neck and heard a feeble voice murmuring in my ear, "There, Robbie, don't cry. I forgive you for everything — everything! Don't cry, dearie, don't cry!" And though I continued to sob, it was not acting. My heart was so filled with pity that it could find no vent except through tears.

"This is intolerable," I thought. "I must rise and flee. I cannot kneel here by this dying woman's bedside and pretend that I am her son. I cannot!"

But the touch of her hand on my hair seemed to take away my power to flee. Light as a baby's touch, it held me there in a grasp of iron. "God forgive me for this unwilling deception," I thought, and so continued to kneel, my face, burning with shame, buried in the pillow.

What there was in that absent son's history, what offences he had been guilty of that his mother on her death-bed should whisper with such deep feeling, "I forgive you everything — everything!" I could only conjecture. My own silence now, as I knelt there, seemed to occasion no surprise in the mind of either the sick woman or that of the girl kneeling beside me. Evidently they did not expect me to say anything. Had I striven to act the part I was now so unwillingly playing, I suppose I could have done it in no more perfect manner than by doing the very thing I had done. The emotion caused by compassion for this poor woman and pity for myself had appeared to them to spring from other, and most natural, sources.

But presently, when I should have conquered my grief, they must expect me to say something. And what should I say? What could I say? "I must continue to act the part now, at all hazards," I thought. "I cannot make known to this dying woman that she has bestowed her last caresses on a stranger. It would kill her at once, and instead of easing her last hours I should have made them horrible. No, I cannot tell her now."

I could only pray that the real son, who should have been here long before, might now remain away.

My tears had ceased to flow, and the weak voice that had been

whispering endearing words in my ear was now silent. Startled, I raised my face from the pillow. The woman's eyes were closed.

"She has fallen asleep, Mr. Robert," whispered the girl close to me. "She is so weak! But oh! you have made her happy by coming. I am so glad! O Robert, I was afraid you wouldn't come!"

"The doctor?" I said, in a whisper that sounded strange to me. "He should be here! Where is he?"

"He left only a few minutes before you came. He thought your mother would live till morning, and there was nothing that he could do, he said. The nurse could do all that would be necessary." And now for the first time I became aware that a woman in a garb of a professional nurse was sitting near the foot of the bed.

"Miss Ernestine," this woman said in a low tone, "may I speak with you a moment?" and she drew her into the adjoining room. The nurse returned in a moment, and, coming close to me, with finger laid warningly upon her lip, whispered: "You are not Robert Sovereign. I do not know who you are, nor why you are here in his place. But whoever you are you must continue to act his part. You must act it not only before this woman, who has only a few hours more to live, but before Miss Ernestine as well. The poor girl has all that she can bear already, and she could not stand this added disappointment and horror."

She was about to say something further, when Ernestine came back, and the nurse returned to her place at the foot of the bed. The girl tiptoed to the bedside and looked at the sick woman's face. "Still asleep," she whispered, and came close to my side. But she continued to look towards the face on the pillow, and not towards me.

I marvelled much that the nurse — presumably but little acquainted with Robert Sovereign — should have instantly perceived that I was not he, whilst this girl, whose acts seemed to indicate that she was on terms familiar with him, and also his own mother should both be mistaken. I could only set it down to the fact that the perceptions of the professional nurse were cool and clear, while the girl's were probably distracted with grief and the sick woman's grown dull at the approach of death. But, for all that, I must bear a startling likeness to Robert Sovereign.

Though I feared it might all end disastrously, I could see no other course open than that suggested by the nurse — the course that I had followed from the first. My faculties seemed half benumbed and incapable of logical reasoning. If I must act the part of Robert Sovereign before this girl, I could wish the acting might be brief.

"Miss Ernestine," I said, "now that she is sleeping" (I could not bring myself to say "mother") "would you not better get some rest? The nurse and I will be at hand if we are needed, and we will call you if — if there is any change."

It was well for me that I had to speak in a sickroom whisper, which, in a measure, disguises the voice.

"Oh, no, Robert. No, I cannot leave her. I must stay here," she said. My hopes fell. At what moment I might make some slip that would lead to my undoing I could not tell. But here the nurse came to my rescue. "If you are to remain, Miss Ernestine," she said, "I think Mr. Sovereign would better leave. He can step into the next room and perhaps get a little nap. It will be better not to have too many here in the room."

I felt very grateful for having an ally in this intelligent person. "Yes, Miss Ernestine," I said, "the nurse knows what is best. I think I would better wait in the other room; I shall be within instant call if needed."

The girl did not demur, though from her silence I thought she would have preferred to have me remain with her. I stepped into the room where stood the shaded lamp, and was casting my eyes about for a seat in the darkest corner when, turning, I saw the nurse at my shoulder.

"You can rest easier on the couch in the next room," she said, motioning towards another door that stood nearly closed. "It is dark in there, but you will not mind that," she said, in a meaning tone, and then added, "I would let you go now, but I dare not. You can, of course, if you choose, pass out the door through which you entered. But you will stay, won't you?" There was something beseeching in her tone, and though the abhorrence that I felt at my false position was still strong I bowed a silent promise.

I had scarcely entered the room and found a seat upon a couch of most luxurious softness when Ernestine came in. She came

straight to the couch, and before I could arise had seated herself beside me and seized my hand, which she began to cover with kisses. Here was a new difficulty added to my already difficult rôle. How in honor could I receive the foolish caresses of this grief-stricken girl? Yet how could I refuse them without disclosing that I was an impostor? What were the relations between Robert Sovereign and this girl? Again was I torn with conflicting emotions; and, balancing between this purpose and that, I ended by remaining passive, and accepting in silence, though with burning cheeks, the girl's fond caresses.

"O Robert!" she half sobbed; "you are so good to-night — so kind and tender! You are as you used to be, dear Robert, and oh, I love you so! I love you so!" Whereupon she flung her arms about my neck and kissed me on my lips again and again.

The situation was trying, you must admit; yet it was not without its compensations. For, though I have not before mentioned it, I had not failed to notice that the features and form of this girl were most lovely. Condemn me, if you must, when I acknowledge that in response to the sweet onslaught thus made upon me, I clasped her form tightly in both my arms and held her close to me until she had finished kissing — which consumed some time. It was not honorable, of course; yet I submit that it was what any man placed in a similar complex situation would have done — that is, any except a very good man; sometimes I am rather glad that I am not a very good man.

"There! it is time for me to go back," said the girl, gently disengaging herself from my arms.

"Yes, it is time!" I thought, but continued to preserve silence — a detail of behavior which she, curiously enough, seemed not to notice. She went out of the room and drew the door nearly shut after her. I was now in darkness save for such feeble light as struggled in through the tiny crack of the door. The window shades must be drawn, I conjectured, for little or no light entered from without. But since darkness was what I coveted I was quite content.

As my eyes became more accustomed to the gloom I was able to distinguish faintly some of the features of the room. I perceived it to be of great size, with lofty ceiling, and furnished with much

magnificence. I was, however, quite incurious about my surroundings, and did not move about the room in an attempt to examine things. Now that I was alone and could think, my thoughts were quite enough to keep me busy. I was strongly impelled to steal out, even as the nurse had suggested, and rid myself of this nightmare condition into which I had fallen. But I had promised the nurse to stay, and I would keep my promise. Soft silken pillows were scattered in abundance upon the couch, and as I rested, half reclining among them, musing upon this strange adventure, I quickly fell into a drowse.

I could not have dozed long, for I was awakened by the startling, though musical, striking of a cuckoo clock. It was quite close to me somewhere, though not visible in the darkness. Twelve times it sounded its little yodel, and the last note had scarcely struck when a voice, not loud but singularly hard and unsympathetic said, "What's the odds? what's the odds? Oh, hell! what's the odds?"

I sat up straight and peered about me, for I could have sworn the voice was in that very room. Who was my companion in the darkness? Perhaps Robert Sovereign, who should have been there at his mother's side. If it was he, what manner of man was he, thus capable of profanity in such an hour? Was he crazy? Those were crazy sounding words, certainly. And what a night of horrors this was, to be sure! Why had I permitted my foolish love of adventure to draw me into this home? I was frightened, as you probably have perceived, but mustered courage to ask in a low tone, "Who is there?" No answer, only a slight movement at the other side of the room. I asked again, and this time a little louder, "Who is it?" but all was still.

For some minutes I sat scarcely daring to breathe, peering hard in the direction whence the sound had seemed to come.

Then I heard a light step in the next room, and a very low murmur of voices, and gradually I was able to convince myself that the voice I had first heard must have come from there, and that the sound of a movement in the room afterward was but a trick of my disordered imagination. Somewhat reassured I began to breathe normally once more, and my tense muscles relaxed.

"Perhaps Robert Sovereign has come home, and is now in there

with his mother," I thought. "If so, there can be no need of my remaining here longer." But I reflected further that if such was the case the nurse would surely remember that I was waiting, and would release me from my promise and let me depart.

The atmosphere of the room was heavy, and I dozed again, being at last aroused by a touch on my hand. It was Ernestine. "Come," she said, and without a word I followed her. Mrs. Sovereign was awake, and the nurse had just administered medicine.

In response to a feeble motion from the sick woman I once more knelt by the bedside. This time I did not bury my face in the pillow, but looked her in the face. "If she perceives that I am not her son, it shall be well." But though she looked at me long and earnestly, there seemed to enter her mind no question of my identity. Approaching death perhaps impaired her vision; and the room was still but dimly lighted. Her hands lay outside the spread, and with the fingers of one she toyed with a ring on a finger of the other. It was set with a large diamond.

Conceive my dismay when she drew the ring off and said, "Put this on, Robert, and wear it for my sake — wear it always." Distinctly other powers than those of my will were shaping my acts that night. Now, as before, I had only to remain passive. Mrs. Sovereign slipped the ring upon my little finger with her own hands; and then, whether it was the slight exertion of the act or the emotion she felt, or merely that the appointed hour had struck, there came almost instantly upon her face a change.

"My son!" she gasped — and it was over.

I closed her eyes gently. In this last little act I could at least play the part of her son with no qualm of conscience, but with only a great pity swelling in my bosom — pity for her because her son, who should have been there, had not come.

The girl on her knees by the bed was sobbing as if her heart would break. I longed to comfort her, to take her in my arms as a father or brother or lover might, and soothe her sorrow; but it was not my right to do so. The nurse came and, helping her to arise, led her from the room.

"Surely my presence can be needed here no longer," I thought. As I passed the door of the room where I had dozed on the couch, the cuckoo clock again broke the stillness, striking four, and again

came the strange hard voice that I had heard at midnight, calling out, "You're a fool! a fool, a fool! a d——d fool!"

Shocked at the profanity and coarseness I pushed open the door, intending to rebuke whomever the person might be that had uttered the words. The summer dawn was breaking, and the blackness of the night had turned to gray. The interior of the room was wholly visible and I was astonished to find it empty.

Then I heard the flirt of a wing. In a large cage by one of the windows was perched a green parrot, eyeing me evilly. With a feeling of mingled relief and loathing I turned away, while the creature yelled after me, "You're a fool! You're a fool!" and then in a different tone it said, "Pretty Poll! Bob's pet! Pretty Poll! Bob's pet!"

As I was issuing upon the porch a cab was wheeling away, and a young man, with heavy eyes, and feet not quite so certain as they should have been, met me on the steps. In spite of his sodden features, I perceived with some disgust that in face and form he was not unlike myself, though of somewhat larger build.

When he saw me, a startled look mixed with insolence came upon his face. "Who the devil are you?" he asked.

"Never mind who I am," I answered sternly. "You are Robert Sovereign; and you are, moreover, as your parrot tells you, a fool! But let that pass. You have graver matters demanding your attention now. Your mother—"

At mention of the word "mother" the expression on his face changed, and he started to pass on into the house.

"Stay!" I said. "Your mother waits you within, but a moment, more or less, will not matter to her now. Take this ring of hers and wear it—wear it always. It was her wish."

He seized it eagerly, and with a look that I shall not soon forget, hurried past me. I went forth into the gray deserted street where a thousand sparrows were piping to the dawn.

A Buckskin Messenger.*

BY HENRY ADELBERT THOMPSON.

IT is often necessary that scientific research shall be conducted in very out of the way places, and those who, in pursuit of their specialties, wander away from civilization often stumble upon adventures which seem more appropriate to the explorer than to the mere student.

It was in the early autumn of '74 that I received from the Director of the Smithsonian Institution a paper commissioning "Professor Elmer Howard to proceed to the Territory of Arizona, there to investigate and report upon any cliff dwellings or prehistoric ruins which he may discover in the valleys of the Salt or Gila Rivers or in the mountains adjacent thereto."

Having spent several seasons in that then far western Territory, I understood something of the difficulties which would probably present themselves. Arizona, in 1874, contained only four or five widely separated towns, the remaining population of the Territory residing in straggling mining camps and on occasional ranches. I knew, also, that the country through which I would be obliged to work was one of the most inaccessible in the United States. It was that general region where the great Rockies break off to southwestward. Detached ranges and spurs, gashed with frightful chasms and topped by towering peaks, extend in all directions. But it was precisely in this bewildering maze of cliff and cañon that the strange, half-aërial dwellings of the ancient inhabitants of America would be found, and I accordingly prepared for laborious work.

After much consideration I decided to begin operations in the Superstition Range, which lies to the south of, and close by, the deep and precipitous cañon of the Salt River. This range, which is about twenty-five miles in length, at its eastern end slopes

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gently down to the plain, and at its western end terminates abruptly in a bluff more than three thousand feet high. One standing on the plain can, summoning his fancy to help him, trace on the side of this escarpment the profile of an Indian face, formed by certain eroded lines and peculiar conformations of the rock. This is known, far and wide, as Montezuma's Head; though I was never able to discover, or even to conjecture, any historical association between it and any of the Aztec emperors.

By kind permission of the proprietor, a young Englishman, I established my headquarters at the Bernalillo Ranch, which was located in the flat country, some twelve miles from the foothills of the Superstitions. This distance of the ranch house from the mountains was inconvenient, but it was nearer than any other to the scene of my prospective labors. Then, too, I proposed to use the ranch only as a base of supplies and as a residence during the intervals between my excursions into the mountains. I had no difficulty in procuring a burro to pack my camp outfit, and the proprietor, Mr. Halleck, smilingly declined to sell me a pony, but offered instead to give me the use of one so long as I should need him. For this favor he steadfastly declined to receive any compensation, saying that he desired to contribute the work of the pony to the advancement of science.

"This horse is one of the best on the ranch," said Mr. Halleck, as we stood inspecting the animal, "but he has one characteristic fault of which you must beware. I have never known him to break away; but if he is left untied or unhobbled he will immediately start in a wild race for home and not stop until he arrives. It is not a fault which is likely to give you much trouble; but a small oversight on your part may put you to the necessity of taking a longer walk than usual." I promised Mr. Halleck, and incidentally myself, that I would keep a close eye on "Buckskin"; but I little dreamed at the time what an important part this equine trick of bolting for home was to play in the adventure which subsequently befell.

Had I been an older man I would no doubt have given more attention to the stories told by the cowboys on the Bernalillo Ranch and to the warnings they solicitously gave me to look out for danger in the Superstition Range. In truth, I was possessed

by the notion that they were simply working on the fears of one whom they "sized up" as a tenderfoot; and so proceeded with my preparations in disregard of the many stories told at the door of the ranch house after dark. These cowboy narratives related a series of bold robberies and wanton murders, extending over many months and located at widely separated points, north and south of the Salt River. Stores had been broken into, stages had been held up and their express boxes rifled, horses had been stampeded and cattle killed, while, most alarming of all, solitary miners and prospectors had simply disappeared from the face of the earth. Special emphasis was laid upon the several mysterious features which marked these depredations. No one knew or could guess the number of the bandits, and the most expert trailers, Indian and white, had failed to track them to their lair. Most inexplicable of all, however, was the fact that these outrages had been committed in the country both north and south of the Salt River; and this with such short intervals of intervening time that it was impossible for men, by any known road, to travel from the scene of one crime to that of the next. The cañon of the Salt, throughout most of its length, was absolutely impassible; and in order to cross from the Gila plain, where the Bernalillo Ranch was located, to the Tonto Basin on the other side, it was necessary to make a wide détour to Fort McDowell, which lay forty miles to the west, or an equally long journey eastward to the ford at Armer. And yet the bandits had sometimes left traces of their presence on both sides of the river within twenty-four hours.

The cowboys at the Bernalillo Ranch advanced various theories to account for the mysterious character of these lawless proceedings. Some of them contended that several small marauding bands of Apaches had established themselves in the mountain fastnesses on either side of the river. Others held that the bandits were Mexicans; pointing out, with some show of plausibility, that the Indians kept clear of the Superstition Range, believing that the face sculptured on the great west wall was that of a divinity who guarded the mountains and who would visit vengeance on any invaders of his territory.

Taking for granted, as I have said, that these stories, if they had any basis of truth, were greatly exaggerated, I resolved that

they should not deter me from pursuing my explorations; but, at the same time, they did determine me to take all reasonable precautions to avoid a surprise and to go well equipped with arms and ammunition.

For three weeks I roamed, rather aimlessly, about the region of the Superstitions without finding traces of human occupancy or making any discoveries worth mentioning. Most of my days were spent in scrambling, often slowly and painfully, along the rim of a cañon, studying, by aid of my field glass, the opposite wall of the gorge. At night I generally took the precaution of selecting some secluded spot in which to pitch my camp; though I am doubtful whether this adjective applies to any particular locality of a region which, throughout its length and breadth, is barren and deserted.

One afternoon, working my way along the great Salt Cañon itself, I made a discovery which set my nerves thrilling. Riding my pony and leading the burro, I suddenly emerged from the timber into an open semicircle, flat, rocky-floored and half a mile in extent. At once I saw that I had found something of which I was in search. At the radial point of the semicircle, and upon the very edge of the river bluff, stood a half-ruined stone fort, such as only the prehistoric people of America ever built. These forts, while interesting in themselves, are doubly so because they are almost invariably found in close proximity to cliff dwellings of the larger and characteristic type; the theory being that they were designed, by their builders, to shelter those engaged in defending the approach to their habitations. I spent a couple of hours in examining and making drawings of the structure upon which I had happened. It was in the form of a parallelogram, fifty feet long by thirty wide. The walls, composed of thin layers of split limestone, were nine feet eight inches in height and two feet four inches in average thickness. On the side farthest from the river the wall was badly broken down, so that I had no difficulty in leading my horse and burro into the enclosure. The remaining three sides of the structure were in a tolerable state of preservation. I paid but little attention to certain indications, furnished by hoofmarks and the remains of a fire, that some one else had visited the place previous to my coming, taking for granted that

some wandering prospector had found it convenient to camp there over night.

On the side of the fort next the river there was a low aperture, quite large enough for a man to crawl through. It opened into the head of a crevice in the face of the bluff, which, at that point, was not perpendicular, but sloped, for a hundred feet or more of its descent, at an angle of about seventy degrees. Looking down this crevice I saw that it was cut in a series of rude steps, much weather-worn; and at the farther end I could make out, though the light was beginning to fade, the jutting corner of a cliff dwelling. It seemed to be located at the point where the slope, at my feet, broke into the perpendicular cañon wall. I passed through the opening, descended the ancient stairway without difficulty and found myself on a narrow platform, at one end of which the doorway of the cliff dwelling opened. The structure, which was located in an immense niche scooped out of the rock, was one story in height and contained eight rooms. The front wall was shattered and portions of it had fallen into the abyss. The usual litter of corncobs, bones, potsherds and fragments of rush mats was strewn on the floors and piled up in the corners. The house was one room deep, excepting that in the rear of the fourth chamber there was a small apartment. Entering this, and striking some matches, for the light of the dusk did not penetrate here, I was surprised to find myself facing the semicircular entrance to what seemed to be an underground passage-way making into the cliff and leading obliquely downward. Burning match after match, I advanced cautiously and soon discovered that I was in a veritable cavern, the extent of which it was impossible to conjecture.

Intensely interested, not to say excited, by this find — for I believed that this was precisely the sort of place in which specimens of unbroken pottery would be found, and possibly the weapons and tools of the former inhabitants — I resolved to make a complete exploration on the morrow.

Returning up the steps, I led my animals to a little mesa, some half-mile distant, where there was a spring and good grass; and there, closely hobbled, I left them for the night. Then, collecting some dead wood, I built a fire in the enclosure of the fort, prepared my supper and retired to sleep.

After a night made restless by dreams of possible discoveries the next day, I arose just as the first faint streak of dawn was showing in the east. My first thought, after a hasty breakfast, was to go in search of my pony and burro. I found them without difficulty; and, lest they should stray too far, brought them back to the fort and tied them to a couple of scrub trees which grew inside. The matter of securing torches, which had disturbed my thoughts of the night, presented no great difficulty, for I found in the neighborhood a score or more of dead ocatilla plants, the dry stems of which burn like pitch pine and continue blazing for a long time. Binding these into a bundle and slinging it over my shoulder, I descended again to the cliff dwelling, lighted my torch and entered the cavern, which I found of much greater extent than I supposed.

The passage led downward, winding a little, at an angle, as near as I could judge, of about forty degrees. There were occasional openings to right or left, but none which compared in size with the main cavern. The rock was limestone, and I had no doubt that I was following the channel of a very old subterranean waterway, dating back to the time when the bed of the Salt River was very much higher than its present level. That peculiar erosion of the rocks noticeable in all limestone caverns confirmed this theory.

It was no doubt owing to the slowness with which I advanced that I seemed to be penetrating a long way into the heart of the earth. Probably I had not gone more than the third of a mile when I entered a section where water dripped from the roof and stalactites and stalagmites, of considerable extent and great variety of form, depended from above or thrust themselves upward from the floor. A couple of hundred yards farther on the passage, here of considerable size, turned sharply to the left and began to ascend. Presently, turning still another angle, this time to the right, I entered a large, dry chamber, and was vastly startled to observe that it was strewn with camp utensils and other unmistakably modern evidences of human habitation. Four beds of dry grass, covered with blankets, lay side by side at what my pocket compass indicated as the northern end of the room. Saddles and articles of wearing apparel were scattered in all directions, and a

hurried examination showed me that the small sacks, stowed in convenient niches or flung carelessly on low edges of the wall, contained coin, watches and jewelry. It flashed upon me in a moment that I had wandered into the headquarters of the bandits against whom the cowboys had warned me, and I realized acutely that it would be dangerous to await the return of the proprietors.

Straining my ear and hearing no sound except the crackling of my torch, I plucked up courage and resolved that, before retreating, I would advance and discover, if possible, whether the cavern had an exit beyond the great hall in which I stood. I had not gone more than fifty yards when this question was satisfactorily answered by the glow of light which came streaming down a side passage. Extinguishing my torch, I stepped into the opening and looked about me. I was standing on the floor of a small but deep cañon, which gashed the river bluff at right angles to the course of the stream, and well down toward the water level. Anxious to determine my position, I walked to the edge of the stream, looked up and down the great gorge and then raised my eyes to the wall on the opposite side. High up on the precipice, and almost directly oppisite me, I observed a cliff dwelling, and above it, on the rim of the cañon, a stone fort. I did not understand, but after a bewildering minute or two, I grasped the situation. In following the course of the cavern I had passed beneath the bed of the Salt River, emerged on the other side, and was now looking across at the point from which I had started. The mystery of how the bandits crossed the cañon of the Salt River was now no mystery at all.

Turning, I retraced my steps toward the cavern entrance, and was engaged in lighting my torch when the sound of a distant shot and the whiz of a bullet past my head startled me. Glancing up the cañon, I saw four horseman, in single file, making their way down a narrow trail from the head of the gorge. The leader was just removing a rifle from his shoulder, and the others were gesticulating wildly. They were a good quarter of a mile away; a distance none too great in view of the fact that their acquaintance with the cavern was probably much greater than mine. Holding my torch aloft, I dashed into the darkness, and in a few minutes I had crossed the bandits' hall and was in the narrower

part which lay beyond. It was not until I reached the lower level of the cavern that I experienced any difficulty; but here I had a couple of bad falls on the slippery floor. On one of these occasions my torch was extinguished and I lost a minute in relighting it. But I scrambled through somehow, and was beginning the ascent on the other side when I first caught the sound of voices behind me. But presently — for I was past the worst now and those following were in the midst of it — the noise of pursuit was lost; though this fact brought me no sense of security. Panting, I flew along the upward-sloping passage, which seemed interminable, and finally emerged into the cliff dwelling. I knew it would not do to linger here, for I was armed only with my revolvers, and my pursuers greatly outnumbered me. Without pausing, then, and with speed accelerated by hearing for the second time the sound of voices behind me, I pushed up the old steps to the fort, where I had barely time to seize my rifle and take a hasty shot at the foremost brigand as he stepped from the door of the cliff dwelling. With a cry he drew back, and in a moment I realized that I was in command of the situation. The only possible way to leave the cliff dwelling was by that flight of steps, the entire length of which, from my protected position in the fort, I could sweep with my rifle and revolvers. A little reflection, however, convinced me that this mastery was mine only so long as I maintained possession of the old stone fort. Should I mount my horse and depart, the bandits could easily make a rush up the crevice, occupy the fort themselves and open a fusillade upon me long before I was out of range. And even if I should succeed in reaching the cover of the timber beyond the open mesa, the chances would still be against me; for the country was so broken that it was foolishness to think of pressing a horse beyond a walk along the barely discernible trails.

If, on the other hand, I stayed, the question arose of how long it would be possible for me to hold out. Days might pass before a cowboy or prospector came that way; and in the meantime it would be dangerous to procure water from the distant spring and almost certainly fatal to sleep. It was, perhaps, the sound of excited, jabbering voices coming up from below that quickened my powers of thought and decided me to stay; which, as the cowboys

afterward informed me, was the only thing to do under the circumstances. I looked at my watch. It was half past seven. It struck me that this was about the usual time for breakfast at the Bernalillo Ranch. Whether, beginning at this point, some obscure association of ideas led up to the notion, or whether it was one of those inspirations that come to men in the face of danger, I am not prepared to say, but across my mind there flashed the remembrance of what Mr. Halleck had told me concerning the propensity of Buckskin to bolt for home. Perhaps a Western man, more familiar with the ways of horses, would have grasped at it eagerly. To me it seemed a forlorn hope. But, forlorn or not, Buckskin was the only one of us three who could, with safety, depart and find his way with tolerable certainty to the Bernalillo Ranch. It was not an expedient such as I would have selected to hang safety and life on ; but it was the only one, and I adopted it. On two or three pages of my note book I scribbled a short narrative of my adventure in the cavern and indicated to the best of my ability the location of the old stone fort. Cutting a slit in the book at either end, I passed a short strap through these holes and buckled it securely about the pony's neck. Then, slipping his halter, I led him to the gap in the wall, turned his head outward and told him to go. He cleared the rubbish at a spring, trotted away a few hundred yards, stopped, looked back, tossed his head as if to assure himself that he was free, and then, breaking into a gallop, disappeared in the timber. All this I saw with one eye — the other was directed down the stairway that led to the cliff dwelling.

For a couple of hours after Buckskin's departure I occupied myself, without leaving my post for more than a few seconds at a time, in collecting stones, which I built into a low inner wall and thus reduced the dimensions of the doorway to those of a loophole. While engaged in this work it occurred to me that, from my elevated position, I commanded not one but both of the exits from the cavern. The gulch into which I had emerged on the other side of the river was directly opposite and not more than four hundred feet distant. I could not make out the opening in its east wall ; but, about nine o'clock, a man dodged out of it and ensconced himself behind a large boulder, which was the only one

in the cañon. Presently there was a puff of smoke and a bullet came rattling against my fortification. Taking careful aim, I returned the fire; as much as anything to let the enemy know that I was on the alert. Instantly the three bandits in the cliff dwelling below rushed from their shelter, delivered a volley and took cover again before I was able to slip a fresh cartridge into my gun. This was probably in the hope that some chance shot would find me. Ten minutes later the programme was repeated; but this time I had my revolver handy and sent a couple of harmless bullets singing down the stairway. That put an end to such tactics, though the rascal opposite kept popping away at intervals.

I understood that the bandits were waiting for night and its opportunities, whatever they might be. Perhaps some of them would sneak out of the north entrance, swim the river at some point, and attack me from the rear. It is needless to say that this reflection increased my anxiety as to the probable success of the ruse I had adopted to secure aid.

Thus the hours dragged slowly by, the sun beating down upon me with pitiless intensity through the open top of the old fort. One o'clock came, and two, and three, and four. Then I heard a shout and a trample of hoofs outside and presently a score of cowboys, with Halleck at their head, came galloping up.

"Look out!" I cried, rushing to the opening and waving my hand. "Don't show yourselves on the edge of the cañon. There is a man with a gun on the other side." Instantly they comprehended and drew together behind the shelter of the fort, while I hurriedly explained the situation.

"As neat a trap as I ever saw!" cried Halleck, when I had finished. "Two of you boys," he continued, "take the loophole, and six others of you get cover where you can find it along the rim of the cañon and watch the entrance on the north side. I told you," he added, turning to me, "that Buckskin was warranted to come straight home if he was turned loose."

Halleck's experienced eye saw in a moment that this method of keeping the robbers in the cave would be effective only while daylight lasted, as, when night fell, they could easily take advantage of the darkness to slip unobserved up the side cañon and so escape to the north. His first thought, then, was directed to the

end of devising some means of getting a part of his force to the opposite side of the river.

"Boys," he asked, "is it possible to cross the Salt anywhere in this vicinity?"

"I think so, Cap," returned one of the cowboys. "About a mile and a half above there is a place where the cañon wall is broken on the other side. On this it is straight up and down as the side of a house, but we have our lariats with us and it will be easy to splice a couple of them and swing over."

"But how about the river?" asked Halleck, trying in vain to get a glimpse of the water, flowing far beneath our feet, without exposing himself to danger.

"Oh, it is all right," replied another ranchman. "The water is low at this season, and I have no doubt we can almost wade across. At the worst it will be but a short swim."

I did not accompany the expedition for the north side of the Salt, and so failed to witness, or to participate in, the perilous feat of swinging down into that great gorge on a swaying rope. But the light had not faded when a series of three shots, the signal agreed upon, told us that five of our men were on the other bank and had taken positions to intercept the flight of the bandits. So skilfully had our detachment manœuvered that I was unable to see them move to their places; but, a little later, the light of a fire above the north entrance illuminated the whole of the little gorge across from me, and eliminated the last vestige of possibility of the escape of our prisoners.

So the night fell and passed; and most of the following day was spent in devising fruitless plans for the final capture of the robbers. This problem at length resolved itself into the alternative of carrying the cavern by storm, a proceeding which I strongly advised against, or simply camping down and starving the bandits out. These latter, driven back into the recesses of their hiding place by the well aimed shots of our men, gave no sign of activity until about five o'clock in the evening, when our deliberations were cut short by the appearance of a white rag, which, waved from the point of a stick, was seen projecting from the cliff dwelling. Halleck, taking a position where he could see and hear without exposing himself — for we reposed little confidence

in the honor of these thieves — began a parley with the Mexican who held out the flag of truce. The fellow would not show himself openly until he received repeated assurances of fair play; then he came out on the platform and offered, on behalf of himself and his companions, to surrender if guaranteed safe conduct to the nearest jail and a fair trial. He was told that he and his partners must come, one at a time, out of the cavern, march up the steps and enter the fort. First three Mexicans emerged successively, holding up their hands and jabbering in bad Spanish. The fourth man was an American, who, as soon as he appeared, was recognized by the cowboys as a noted desperado. He, as it afterward came out, was the organizer and directing spirit of the band, and he hastened to inform us that his surrender was entirely due to the fact that his cowardly Mexican followers lost heart when they found themselves in a trap.

That evening, this time in company, I made a second and much more leisurely exploration of the cavern under the Salt Cañon. In the bandits' hall — while the others were examining the booty and discussing the question of its ownership — I discovered eleven large pieces of unbroken prehistoric pottery, which were handed over to me without question. The robbers had employed these ancient vessels for the utilitarian purpose of holding their food supplies, and I found them standing together on a shelf in the nook. Ten of these specimens are now in the Smithsonian Institution, the other being smashed in transit beyond the possibility of mending.

I left Arizona before the miscreants who made the cavern their headquarters were brought to trial, but a letter afterward from Mr. Halleck informed me that they had received the just punishment of their misdeeds. The letter also stated that Buckskin continued to exercise his penchant for bolting home when by any means he got loose.

In the World's Gate.*

BY FRANK LILLIE POLLOCK.

LONG iron steamer was slowly nosing her way eastward through the sluggish waters of the Suez Canal. She was apparently in the most astonishing state of disrepair and dilapidation. Once she had been painted black, but that was in the dim abyss of time; now her battered sides were of the natural and unashamed hue of the plates, diversified by broad blotches and bands of rust. The brasswork of her ports was green, the funnel sagged, rails and decks were greasy and chipped. The dock loafers had jeered at her when she wallowed into Port Said, and she had appeared in the maritime intelligence of Trieste a week previous as, "Str. *Ukraine*, Trieste, L. Passaro, master, cleared for Zanzibar in ballast."

Half a dozen Levantines were gambling on the decks forward, a ruffianly Maltese in a red cap held the wheel, and a young man in a blue and white yachting costume, much weather-beaten and tanned, stood on the bridge just outside the wheel-house. They had reached a point midway between Kantara and Lake Timsan when a dull report sounded heavily from far down in the ship's interior. There was a disturbance and a bubbling of the water alongside, and a strange and acrid odor drifted up the forward hatchway. The young man in the duck trousers sprang to the wheel, snatched it from the startled Maltese, and with a quick twirl of the spokes swung the vessel's head round till she lay nearly athwart the Canal.

The object of this manœuvre was not apparent, but it seemed to have been ineffectual. There was a sound of gurgling waters from below, and the ship lurched heavily to starboard. A tremendous hissing and a gush of steam announced that the fires had been flooded, and a moment later the black and half-nude staff of the engine-rooms precipitated themselves on deck. Alongside, the

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calm waters seemed to be rising with amazing rapidity toward the rail, and in three minutes the keel touched bottom with a perceptible thump. The Canal is twenty-six feet deep, and the water reached nearly to her lower deck. She lay squarely across the fair-way, her awkward bulk completely blocking the deep-water channel. The great gate between the two worlds was jammed.

The Levantines jabbered and swore in a dozen dialects, but presently, at the command of the yachtsman, they launched one of the boats and rowed off in the direction of Ismailia. The young man, thus abandoned, sat down in a deck chair, lighted a cigarette and gazed across the desert. As the retreating oar-splashes of the crew died out, the hot silence settled down unbroken.

But for the gigantic ditch alongside, he might have fancied himself in the mid-Sahara. The sandy and rocky plain ran red and yellow to the extreme limit of vision. Far to the south-east El Guisr thrust a jagged black peak against the spotless horizon. The sun poured down fiercely.

The young man had time to smoke many cigarettes, and to gaze to satiety at the glaring monotony of landscape. But in about three hours a whirring electric launch shot up, the launch of the Canal patrol, and the officer clambered aboard. He was a smooth-shaven Englishman, wearing the uniform of the Canal Company.

"I say!" he began sharply. "Who are you? Don't you see you're blocking the Canal?"

"I'm sorry," said the man on board. "Have a cigarette — they're Manilas. My name is Davenport, and this is my private yacht, the *Ukraine*, of Trieste, as you can see by looking over the stern, if all the lettering hasn't been rubbed off."

"I say!" repeated the Briton, staring. "But this is no joke, you know. How did you come to sink in this position?"

"We just seemed to spring a leak," returned Davenport, cheerfully. "This yacht has been porous for some time. As for our peculiar position, that is entirely the fault of the fool who had hold of the wheel. He swung her round as she went down."

"I'll bring a diver to look at the leak at once — at your expense," said the Englishman. "If she can be plugged and pumped out, very well. We'll give you twenty-four hours. If she isn't afloat at the end of that time, we'll have to blow her up."

The official removed himself rapidly in the launch, but returned a little before sunset with an Arab diver, who removed his clothes and went under like a frog. Davenport leaned over the rail and watched the operations with considerable interest. After half an hour's work, the Englishman came on board the *Ukraine* to report.

"The diver says there is a hole in her side big enough to drive a horse through," he said. "It's a most extraordinary piece of business, I must say. It would be absolutely impossible to repair her as she lies, and she is resting merely on her bows and stern, so that she is likely to break in two besides. I'll give you till eight o'clock to-morrow morning to gut her, and at that hour we'll send the dynamite launch."

At this decisive announcement Davenport manifested, for the first time, some embarrassment.

"Look here," he suddenly blurted. "Don't do that. She's had quite enough of that sort of thing." He hesitated. "I suppose I may as well make a clean breast of it. The fact is, she is loaded with nitro-glycerine, six hundred quart-cases of it, packed away in the sand ballast. All of it is ten or fifteen feet under water now. Some of it must have gone off and blown out her side; I heard a noise. Why it didn't set off all the rest I can't imagine. But if you blow her up here it will produce an explosion that will wreck the Canal for a mile."

The other man stared. "Good heavens! and what were you going to do with all that explosive?" he ejaculated.

"I prefer not to say. Taking it to Delagoa Bay for the Boers, possibly."

"If I really thought you were," said the Briton, stiffly, "I would have you arrested. I suppose we will have to have the cases of explosives taken out by divers, and then the hulk will be dynamited. Of course all this will be done at your expense."

The launch whirred off again, leaving Davenport not greatly impressed. He knew that not one of the native divers of Port Said could be induced to handle nitro-glycerine; he doubted if the directors of the company would even risk allowing them to handle it in that dangerous position. It would be necessary to bring a regular submarine wrecking outfit from Trieste or Naples, and this would take days, perhaps a week. In the meantime, the

swift equatorial darkness was falling, and he decorated the ship with numerous red lanterns, hoisted an enormous red flag in the rigging, and hung a white board over the stern with the inscription in four languages:

DANGER.
This Vessel is loaded with Dynamite.
Dangerous to approach.

He spent the night on the bare deck, and at dawn he got a small skiff overboard and rowed himself to Ismailia, very hungry, for the provisions had all been flooded. From Ismailia he took the railroad to Cairo, and thence to Port Said, at the Canal-head.

No shipping had been allowed to enter the Canal since the accident was reported, and inside the breakwater were already waiting a couple of large freighters, a big four-masted steel clipper and an Austrian Lloyd mail steamer. More ships continued to arrive, and Davenport sat on the end of the pier and watched them, sweeping the horizon with a binocular for warning smudges of smoke. Another ocean tramp came in, an Italian liner, and a transport full of British troops which at once made the port uproarious. Then, about noon, a large warship appeared at full speed from the West. She was fast, had three funnels, and when she came near enough to make it clear that she was flying the French flag Davenport put his glass into its case and sighed with relief. Then he smiled thoughtfully.

Almost before she had lost way a boat was dropped over her side and an officer was rowed rapidly to the landing. Thence, with no less rapidity, he was driven in a hack to the French Consular Offices. In five minutes he reappeared, accompanied by the Consul himself, and the pair hurried to the offices of the Suez Canal Company.

They came out again with no pleasant expression and both went down to the pier and were taken aboard the cruiser, which had not anchored, but was lying to with steam up. In half an hour the Consul returned ashore, accompanied this time by the captain in a gorgeous full-dress uniform, and a slight dark-faced Oriental-looking youth, in the uniform of a French colonel of cavalry.

Davenport had watched these comings and goings with a deep and not unintelligent interest. Indeed, it was an awkward moment for a blockade on the road to the East. Ten days before it had been secretly cabled to Paris from the French Legation in Bangkok that the King of Siam was supposed to have been poisoned in the harem. He might live for weeks, he might even then be dying; it was impossible for an outsider to learn with accuracy of happenings in the Palace. The King's eldest brother, the "Ong Yai," was expected to succeed, according to the immemorial custom of the country. It was the moment for which French diplomacy had been waiting for years.

In the eyes of France, Siam has always been regarded as the natural complement of French Indo-China, and it has been her constant aim to establish a suzerainty of some sort over that state. Some years earlier the growth of foreign customs had made it probable that the right of royal succession would be transferred to the eldest son of the First Queen, as among Western peoples, instead of remaining with the "Ong Yai." About the same time the French Ambassador had scored a success by inducing the King to send the young Crown Prince, Ohya Varariddhi, to Paris, to receive a foreign education. Here he was officially welcomed with royal honors, fêted, given rank in the French army and introduced to Parisian society and vices. No expense was spared to impress upon his undeveloped mind the omnipotence of the power of France and the glory of her institutions. By this time he was a premature *roué*, his nationality obliterated, his naturally feeble intellect completely dazzled by the glitter of Europe. Once on the throne of his fathers he would be the merest tool in the hands of French diplomacy.

Everything depended upon getting him to the Siamese capital before the old King should expire. The "Ong Yai" was an energetic man of middle years. He controlled the army, he had the tremendous weight of ancient custom to support his claim, and it was practically certain that, once proclaimed sovereign, he would be sustained by the foreign governments, if only for the sake of peace. Possession would mean all the points of the law — and the road was barred by an infernal machine.

In the French Consulate and on the French cruiser there was

exasperation and alarm. The cables to the East hummed with cipher messages. The commander offered the services of his blue jackets to remove the sunken *Ukraine*, he offered to tear it to pieces with his own bare hands. Money was no object, but the directors of the Canal, mostly Englishmen, had no particular sympathy with the Frenchman's incomprehensible and almost tearful excitement and declined to risk having a mile of the Canal embankments shattered by the tampering of unskilled hands. A hurry order had been cabled to Naples for wreckers and they might be expected in two or three days. Till then it was necessary to wait.

It turned out to be four days, and for several persons in the port they were the slowest four days on record. Ship after ship continued to arrive at both ends of the Canal, mail steamers, freight boats, majestic steel ships and barques from the Antipodes, every sort of craft important enough to pay the Canal tolls, flying every flag known to the four oceans. Every day the company's offices were crowded with angry and rough-speaking sea captains, and a dozen suits-at-law were daily threatened. As for Davenport, he carefully avoided even the neighborhood of these offices and spent much of his time on the end of the pier as before, sweeping the horizon with his glass. He was looking for the steamer from Naples.

On the fifth morning she appeared. Davenport at once had himself rowed to the French man-of-war, boarded her and introduced himself to the commander in purest Parisian French. Would the commander have the goodness to transmit to the French Legation in Bangkok a communication of importance to French interests in the East — of the highest importance, he might venture to say? The commander would. Davenport confided to his care an imposing and official-looking document, tied with tape and decorated with several ounces of red wax, and bowed himself over the side. Two hours later he went aboard a west-bound steamer that was ready to sail and disappeared under the Mediterranean horizon.

The divers went to work at once, hauling up carefully several tin cases — filled with sand. After an investigation lasting an hour or two, a couple of charges of dynamite were exploded under the *Ukraine* with no unusual effects. The Canal was clear, and in

a solid procession the ships began to pass through. For a week there was a double file, moving in opposite directions, and the nights were bright as day from the electric searchlights that the regulations compel every vessel to carry in nocturnal transit.

The French cruiser crossed the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal as if the devil were after her. She was a new boat and had recently been cleaned. The French Secretary of Legation was down at Paknam, at the mouth of Bangkok's long harbor, on the lookout for her, and when she appeared he came on board. Before he could open his mouth the commander thrust into his hand Davenport's bulky missive. In spite of its size and weight, it was found, when the multiplicity of seals were broken and the tape cut, to contain only the following words:

> On board the sunken steamer *Ukraine*, in the Suez Canal.
> His Excellency, the French Ambassador, Bangkok:
>
> Five years ago an American sailor enlisted in the French Foreign Legion at Hue, Cochin-China. He rose to be a *sous-officier*. At the outbreak of the Spanish War with the United States he applied for discharge (his term of enlistment having all but expired) in order that he might join the fleet of Admiral Dewey at Hong-Kong, and when this was refused he attempted to escape and make his way thither without leave. He was captured and shot to pieces by the native troops sent in pursuit. His body lies on the shore of the Gulf of Tonquin, under a heap of rocks — the costliest sepulchre ever erected, for it has cost France a kingdom.
>
> That man was my only brother.
>
> STEWART DAVENPORT.

The Secretary of Legation read the note and shrugged his shoulders expressively. Then, answering the look of intense curiosity on the commander's countenance, he said:

"The King died four days ago, and his brother immediately assumed the crown amid thunders of popular applause. He has been formally recognized by the foreign Diplomatic Corps, and, perforce, the French representatives have been compelled to follow suit."

There was nothing more to do or say. The wretched Siamese-Parisian Prince was bundled ashore with scant ceremony, and the cruiser steamed on for Saigon, the nearest colonial port.

The Lady and the Law.*

BY JULIA TRUITT BISHOP.

OOM-BOOM! Boom-boom!

In the cabin on the hill a woman was weaving, and if one were near enough he could hear, between the muffled double-beats of the loom, the swish of the shuttle darting back and forth through the parted threads. The beat of the loom went farther. One could hear it away to the point where the road crawled around the side of the opposite hill — boom-boom, boom-boom, with a steady relentlessness, as though one of the Fates were up there, weaving the web of somebody's life; or, perchance, a shroud for some one who was about to be done with life. Once in a long while there was a pause, and then one knew that a thread was broken, and that the unrelenting Fate, bending over the loom, was mending the thread, so that the weaving could go grimly on. In those pauses of the loom, one heard a hawk shrieking far aloft.

In the cabin, a silent child sat on the floor, building a little house of sticks, and smiling at it dispassionately when it tumbled down; after which he built it up again. Not far from the silent child was the silent woman, weaving; a pale, big-eyed woman, keeping at her work with a deadly composure. She wore a faded brown homespun dress, clumsily fashioned, but on the wall in the corner hung the decent black dress and the decent black sunbonnet which she wore abroad. When one is poor one cannot mourn every day.

The bench upon which she sat as she wove was beside a window which looked out across the valley and to the other hill, and especially commanded a view of that yellow road rounding the shoulder of the hill. If one were coming from town, for instance, the weaver would perhaps see him on that point of road, moving

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along through the violet summer haze and disappearing there; and, having watched him drop down into the valley, would perhaps go on sending the steady boom-boom across the echoing slopes.

The rider came on down the valley and up the hill. The main road did not pass the cabin, but he left the main road and urged his horse up the path to the door. The woman paused with the shuttle poised for throwing, and looked at him under sombre brows.

"Well," drawled the man, slowly, his hand on his sunburnt beard, "I thought I'd come by an' let ye know they've cleared Bill Fowler."

She had looked at him just a moment, then the poised shuttle flew on its appointed path, and the loom set up its dull beating again.

"Looks like a man can do anything he feels like, these days, an' come free," said the man at the door, throwing one leg over the horn of the saddle and slouching there sideways. "'Specially if he's got money. How long is it since he killed Joe? — three years, I reckin — an' they've had changes of venue an' mistrials an' appeals, an' one dodge an' another, till everybody was about wore out with it, an' cleared 'im to git rid of 'im. An' now, here 'e is, scot free. He seemed mighty gay up in town."

The woman at the loom laid down the shuttle and turned on the bench.

"If you-all have got any seeds to spare I wisht ye'd bring me over some," she said. "I want to git ready to plant my fall gardin."

The man in the door shot a swift glance at her, and then looked away with an air of absorbed interest in the landscape.

"I'll bring ye over some," he said, slowly straightening himself in the saddle. "I jes' thought I'd come by an' let ye know. I got off in a hurry before Bill lef' town."

The woman did not answer with words. She looked at him, and he rode away, merely glancing in the most casual manner towards that little line of road that rounded the shoulder of the opposite hill.

As for the woman, what strange impulse had come upon her, to arise in the midst of her work and put on her black dress —

the seldom used black dress that one could not afford to wear every day?

And having put on the black dress, to sit and weave again, with the sombre eyes watching that peaceful bit of road?

If one chanced to be coming along that road now, moving half in a dream through the violet haze, the earth would surely look very fair to him, especially if he had been shut in three long years from the sight of the sun. Down below there was a valley, with the hazy light drifting down upon the still tree-tops, so that they seemed like trees seen in a vision. Away yonder was a field, the thick-ranked corn shading off into yellow and over it all the shadow of a cloud floating with broad wings outspread. From the cabin on the hill yonder came the dull beat of a loom, giving an unutterable sense of companionship and homeliness and friendliness to the scene. One might even forget for a time whose cabin that was on the hill: or even if one remembered, what of that? Three years was a long time. No woman grieved three years.

And so reflecting, and so riding blithely on through the free air and the sunlight, whistling a gay tune and smiling in between, it would perhaps shock one more than the recoil of the horse, even, to turn a sharp bend of the road and come suddenly face to face with a woman in black leaning on a rifle, and looking at one with sombre eyes.

He had never been a coward — had he? — he could not remember — but there was that in her face that was not good to look upon. Without knowing what he was doing, he dismounted from his horse and left the animal to graze, which the horse did, very indifferently.

"So them lawyers has set ye free, Bill?" she said, leaning composedly on the rifle.

He tried to recover himself.

"Not the lawyers, Ellen — the jury," he corrected. "They said it was a fair trial. You are too broad-minded to hold a grudge against me, Ellen, after all these years — and after the law has declared that I am innocent."

She still leaned upon the rifle, but she was smiling at him now. The smile was dreadful to look upon.

"I'm glad the law done all it could for ye," she said, gently.

"Thank you, Ellen," he cried, reassured. "There were times when I felt dreadfully depressed, for it did seem for awhile that — well, I didn't know what was going to happen. But my lawyers have certainly worked hard to bring me through; and now that I know how you look at it — "

"Yes," she said, without moving. "Ye've had your chance with the law, an' it's freed ye; an' ye was feelin' pretty good as ye came up the hill there, wasn't ye? I heerd ye whistlin'. Then I knowed you had forgot that ye hadn't reckined with me. Well, here I am."

His face was white, all at once, and his hands trembled.

"Ellen!" he cried, crushing down the impulse to turn and run from this grim, impassive woman who had been waiting for him all these years, while his lawyers were moving heaven and earth to set him free. "Ellen!"

"You've got through with the law — it's a pretty easy law, ain't it? — an' now it's my turn. They ain't so much dif'rence, after all, between dyin' in a jail with a rope aroun' yer neck an' dyin' on the road within a mile of home."

He looked abroad in one swift glance over the lands he knew, and his face grew ghastly. Then he kept his eyes on hers.

"What's the use of talking about dying?" he asked, jocularly, moving a slow step toward her. "It will be time enough to talk of dying when the time comes." A step, a very little step, nearer. "You ought not to be hard on me, Ellen; you and I were sweethearts, you know, before Joe came along — and even if I had killed him for taking my sweetheart away from me — "

He had calculated his distance nicely, so that he could seize her at the end of that leap; but he had not calculated her. One moment she stood there, a statue in black, leaning on a rifle, calm, composed, looking him in the eyes. The next second the flash and the burst of doom caught him in the face as he sprang.

"That's over," she said calmly, aloud, to the Thing that lay at her feet. Then she stood the gun against a tree and rolled It over the edge of the hill.

The hawk, floating silent far above, suddenly flapped his wings and fled, sending wild clamor over the land.

When the woman in black went into the cabin presently, the child still had the sticks, but he was playing a new game. It was a beautiful game. "Stand up there," he said to one of the sticks, and with another stick held to his shoulder, he said "Pow!" And the stick fell, and he rolled it into a corner.

The woman bent over the loom, mending a broken thread in the middle of the cloth.

Boom-boom! The loom began its dull heart-beat again, weaving a shroud; but as the shuttle darted and the web grew, a little dark spot showed where the thread had been broken, and crept sullenly along the woven web.

At the end of the day a man rode up to the door.

"I brought ye over a package o' them seeds for yer fall garden, Ellen," he said, casually. "An' I thought I'd come by an' let ye know somebody'd killed Bill Fowler down the hill there, by the ol' pine stump. You was so busy weavin' I reckin' ye never noticed the firin'."

He paused and twisted a knotted hand into his sunburnt beard.

"I was waterin' my horse down there at the creek, an' I heerd yer loom goin' all the time," he added, carefully. "You'll find them reddish seeds a mighty good kind."

"Pow!" said the child, and another stick fell prone, and was pushed out of sight.

The woman took the package of seeds and stood in the door, looking out at the sunset.

"I reckin I'll plant to-morrer," she said, softly. "It's a-cloudin' up for rain."

The Tale That Hasn't Been Told

NO life is without some spice of romance or adventure — some happening out of the ordinary sequence of events. Stored in the mind of every intelligent man and woman is at least one original story, for the experience of every human being includes an incident or accident — an adventure or a conception of the imagination — which, told effectively, cannot fail to interest. If the readers are in other walks of life, have had other and different experiences, so much more will they be fascinated, for the novel and unexpected constitute the sauce which gives relish to the common fare of daily existence.

Never has the man or woman with a good story to tell had so wide a field, so vast a number of listeners, or so great an opportunity for profit as to-day. And the number of readers increases much more rapidly than the number of writers who gain the public ear. Few with something new to tell that this ever-increasing host of story readers wants to read have found a market, because they are unknown — lack literary reputation, which counts for so much with other publishers and counts for nothing with The Black Cat.

The greatest author is yet unknown, the best story is yet untold, for this is distinctively the age of progress in every department of human effort. The greatest song has not been composed. The last immortal poem has not been penned. The short story that may prove worthy the highest award ever bestowed is now lying fallow in the brain of some reader of this announcement.

$10,285 For Those Who Tell

The prize story contest of The Black Cat which is now open presents an extraordinary opportunity for known writers and the opportunity of a life-time for unknown writers. As, in the interest of its readers and publisher alike, The Black Cat is determined to publish the best stories that genius and skill can produce, all may assist in spreading the board from which they will feast in future by bringing this tournament to the notice of any who have stories to tell.

From the outset, The Black Cat has been conducted in the commonsense belief — which its whole experience confirms — that the art of story writing is not, in this age of intelligence, confined to any section or class, nor to be found in the possession of only a favored few. Accordingly, neither name nor fame has ever counted anything in the judging of stories submitted for its consideration. Neither previous achievements in literature, nor notoriety acquired in some other field, can take the place of merit in the story to be passed upon.

On the contrary, hundreds of men and women, before unknown, have, by its acceptance of their work, found their way into the ranks of the recognized and well-paid authors, and scarcely any of the army who have gained admission to the pages of The Black Cat are personally known to any one connected with it. It matters not whether a writer is known or unknown; if his work excels he has an equal chance of success with any and all, provided his story be submitted in accordance with the printed conditions.

What The Prizes Are

IN this contest the prizes are the richest ever offered for short stories. From the beginning The Black Cat has paid five and ten times what other publications pay and now it surpasses its own unrivalled record. With the lowest prize $100 cash, and many others ranging from $125 to $2,100, their total aggregating $10,285, the opportunity to reap rich rewards is indeed a golden one.

The capital prize: a first-class tour of the world, consuming 179 days and costing $2,100, under the guidance of the famous house, The Raymond & Whitcomb Co., is far and away the most interesting, instructive, and luxurious reward ever offered for a short story; one cash prize of $1,000, one of $500, two of $300 each, a $1,300 steam automobile of latest model; three cash prizes of $200 each, four of $150 each; a $350 round-trip from Boston to San Francisco, consuming 20 days, a $150 round trip from Boston to Cuba, consuming 15 days, with sufficient cash to see, examine and enjoy; a $500 Crown Piano, renowned for its unsurpassed tone, quality and workmanship; five cash prizes of $125 each; an Angelus, $250, that marvel of mechanical ingenuity which plays perfectly any piano and doubles its pleasure; a $100 Oliver and $110 Fox writing machine; fifteen cash prizes of $100 each — these form an array of prizes that should tempt creative brains to tell for The Black Cat the cleverest tales ever told.

How To Win

A competitor need not cross the sea for a plot; need not step over the threshold of home to find material replete with human interest; need not journey beyond the portals of his or her own fancy for a story which, if well told, will charm the reading world. Select a subject with which you are familiar. A better story can be told about Mary Ann than has yet been told about Queen Anne. There are men and women without number who have the sort of stories to tell the public wants, and there are many exceptional men and women who possess ability sufficient to bring them fame and fortune if they could get a hearing. To all these The Black Cat will give a hearing. It is a matter of history and every-day occurrence that other publishers strive to catch popular favor by booming the fame of an author rather than by standing squarely on the merits of the author's writing. Indifferent stories by noted writers are eagerly bought and publicly praised before they are even written, while clever stories by unknown writers go begging for years after they are written.

The story of David Harum was offered to publisher after publisher and its invalid author never lived to see the marvelous success it achieved when it was finally offered to the public. Lorna Doone was rejected right and left. Eben Holden, another phenomenal hit, after being declined and declined and declined, scored so great a sale that its author's later stories were eagerly bought before they were begun.

Your Chance Of Success

NOT only in the amount of its prizes does The Black Cat tournament present to writers greater incentives than all other story contests, but the young and inexperienced in particular, whose work, while possessing merit, may still fail when brought into competition with that of the more experienced, find here their opportunity. For in addition to the stories receiving the prizes named on the preceding pages, amounting to $10,285, those unsuccessful in the competition but deemed desirable will, as explained in the printed conditions, receive special awards of not less than $100 each, or we will offer to purchase the same for cash. The increased chances which this gives to all who compete is shown by the circumstance that in previous contests more than $2,000 was paid for such unsuccessful yet available stories. Some stories have good plots, imperfectly developed; others need condensation or editing to be available, but contain clever incidents.

If you are in doubt as to the kind of story that will prove successful read in The Black Cat some of the tales that have won in former contests. The back numbers containing these will all soon be permanently out of print (half of them already are) and the Gripsack offer advertised on another page of this issue is one that every story lover and story writer should take advantage of. It can never be duplicated. Those having complete sets of all back numbers already ask two and three times the original cost.

Merit Alone Counts

From the first, The Black Cat has been exclusively devoted to short, original complete stories; has relied for success solely upon the superiority and excellence of its stories, and its founder and publisher has personally passed final judgment upon the manuscripts submitted. The phenomenal popular endorsement his judgment has received, the fact that no one can possibly have so great an interest in its future success as he personally has — these are the reasons why he will continue to be the judge as to what does and what does not meet the requirements of The Black Cat. In doing this he feels, moreover, that he is simply exercising the universal buyer's right: he who pays is entitled to his choice. That his decisions are free from favoritism and governed solely by merit is proved by the fact that not one of fifty of those whose stories have been accepted is personally known to him. As a check upon the wholesale offering of carelessly prepared, undesirable manuscripts, it is required that an annual subscription to The Black Cat be sent with each story submitted in this contest. As the cost of handling the manuscripts alone — recording, reading, filing and returning — will far exceed the amount received from subscriptions, and as the total outlay connected with the competition will exceed $30,000 the profits from subscription receipts cut absolutely no figure.

To facilitate careful consideration, deliberate judgment and prompt decision, it is necessary that competitors should send their stories as early as possible. Don't wait till the latest moment, but send your story as soon as it is ready, and be sure to comply with the conditions on page 47 of this issue.

BELOW is a list of the prizes. The capital prize--first-class tour of the world ticket--will be delivered to the winner with check covering expenses to Boston and return. The same applies to the 6th and 17th prizes. All cash prizes will be paid by certified check on The International Trust Company, of Boston. The Automobile, Piano, Angelus and Typewriters will be delivered, freight prepaid, at any railway station. If preferred, prizes Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 17, 23 or 24 may be converted into their cash equivalent, less the guarantee already paid to secure their delivery.

Total Prizes $10,285

1st.	Tour of The World, 179 days,	Actual Cost	$2,100
2d.	Surrey Automobile	Actual Cost	1,300
3d.	Cash		1,000
4th.	Cash		500
5th.	Crown Piano,	Actual Cost	500
6th.	Round Trip, Boston to San Francisco,		350
7th.	Cash		300
8th.	Cash		300
9th.	Angelus,	Actual Cost	250
10th.	Cash		200
11th.	Cash		200
12th.	Cash		200
13th to 16th.	Four Cash Prizes at $150 each		600
17th.	Round Trip, Boston to Cuba,		150
18th.	Cash		125
19th.	Cash		125
20th.	Cash		125
21st.	Cash		125
22d.	Cash		125
23d.	Fox Typewriter,	Actual Cost	110
24th.	Oliver Typewriter,	Actual Cost	100
25th to 39th.	15 Cash Prizes at $100 each		1,500

OMPETITORS may choose their own themes. We especially desire, however, stories in which the morbid, unnatural and unpleasant are avoided rather than emphasized. Good, clean, humorous tales are desirable. No dialect stories, translations, plays or poems will be considered; nor any story not submitted strictly in accordance with the conditions. We want original stories, out of the ordinary, free from commonplace and padding, and interesting throughout.

Conditions:

1. Each manuscript must bear at the top of the first page the writer's real name and address, in full (if it is desired that the story be published under a pen name that must likewise be given), as also the number of words it contains, which may range from 1,500 to 6,000, but must not exceed the latter. Other things being equal, the shorter of two stories will be preferred.

2. Manuscripts must be plainly written (with typewriter or pen) on one side of paper only, on sheets not larger than 8 x 11 inches, must be sent unrolled, *postage or express charges fully prepaid*, and accompanied by addressed and stamped envelopes for return. Letters advising submittal of stories must be *enclosed with manuscripts*, not sent separately. Manuscripts will be received and returned only at writers' risk. Upon our payment for a story the author relinquishes to us all rights thereto of whatsoever nature.

3. Every story must be strictly original and must, neither wholly nor in part, have appeared in print in any language. Every story will be judged solely on its own merits; the name or fame of a writer will carry absolutely no weight. And furthermore, every story will be valued, not in accordance with its length, but with its worth as a story.

4. With every manuscript there must be enclosed, in the same envelope, one yearly subscription to THE BLACK CAT, together with 50 cents to pay therefor. On subscriptions to foreign countries 24 cents must be added for postage. All money should be sent by draft, postal money order, express money order or registered letter. One- or two-cent postage stamps in perfect condition will also be accepted. If competitors are already subscribers to THE BLACK CAT or submit more than one manuscript, their existing subscriptions will, if desired, be extended or the new ones may be taken in the names of other parties. Any competitor may send as many stories as desired, but with each story all conditions must be complied with.

5. All envelopes containing manuscripts as above must be plainly marked "For Competition" and addressed, "The Shortstory Publishing Company, 144 High Street, Boston, Mass." Their receipt will be acknowledged.

6. The competition will close February 26, 1902. The awards will be paid within 60 days thereafter, and announced in the earliest possible issue of THE BLACK CAT. Should two stories of equal merit be considered worthy of a prize, the prize will be either doubled or divided.

7. For stories unsuccessful in the competition but deemed desirable, we will either award special prizes, of not less than $100 each, or make a cash offer. All unsuccessful manuscripts, submitted as above, will be returned after the contest has closed. The conditions and requirements being here fully set forth, we cannot enter into correspondence relative thereto.

Important. *As no story will be considered unless all the above conditions are complied with, competitors should make sure that their manuscripts are prepared strictly in accordance therewith, are securely sealed in strong envelopes, and fully prepaid. Don't hold your story till the latest moment, but send it as soon as ready, thus facilitating earliest possible decision.*

The Shortstory Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

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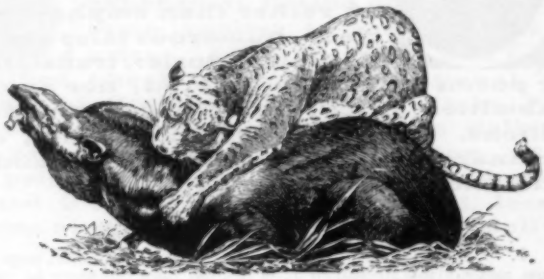

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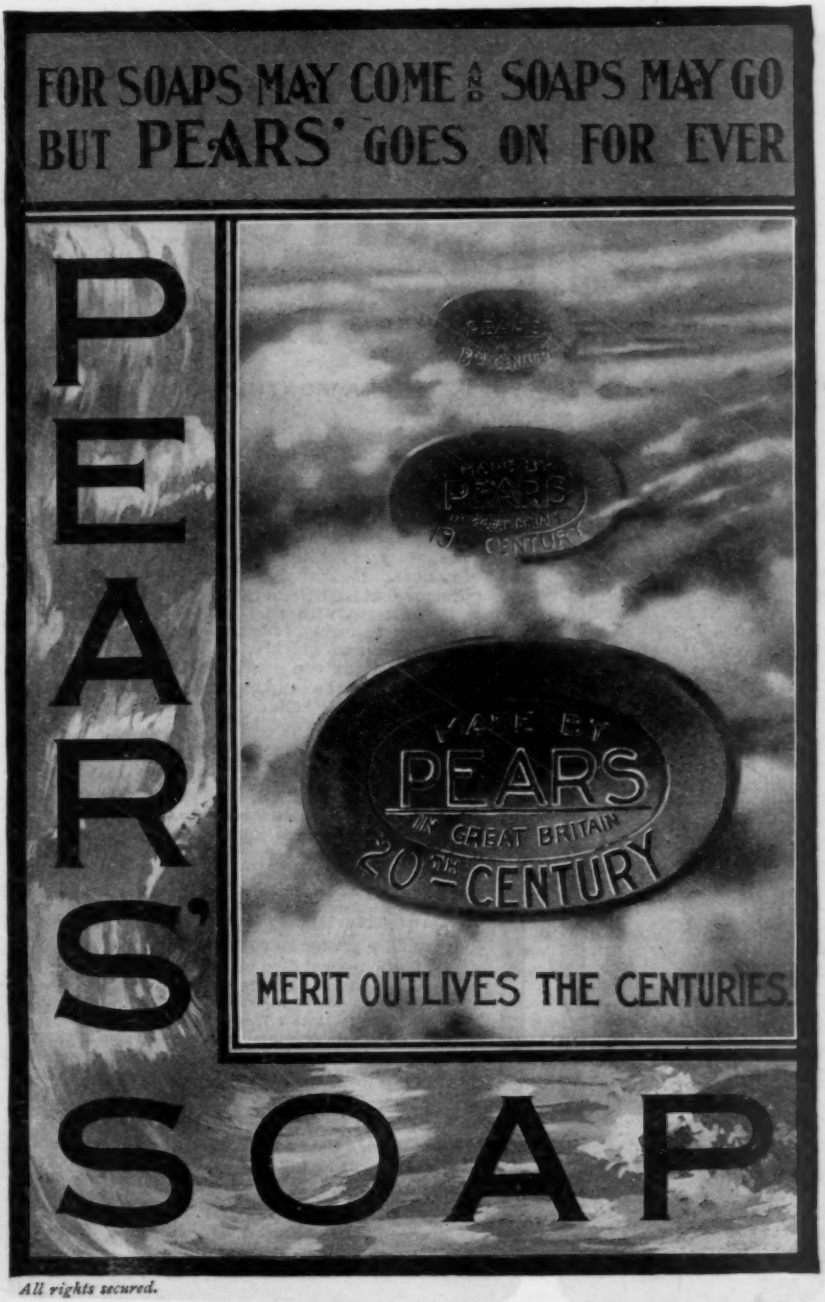

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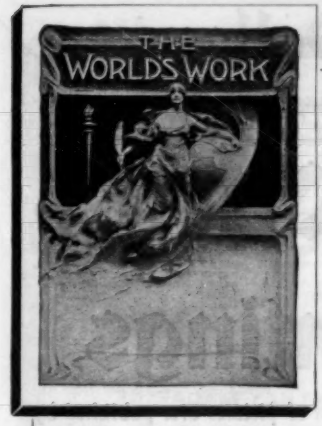

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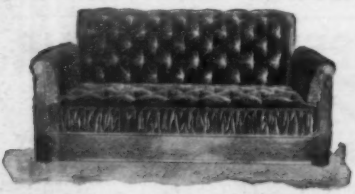

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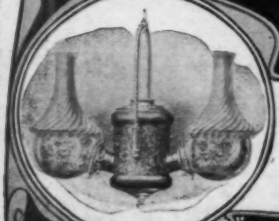

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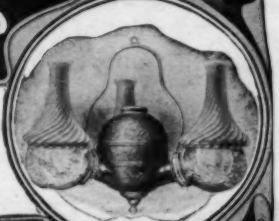

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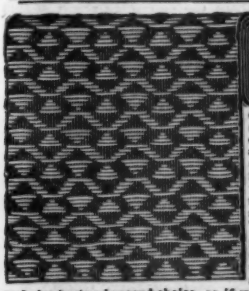

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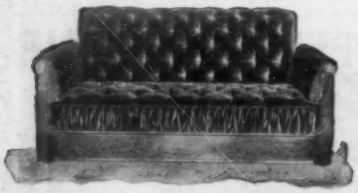

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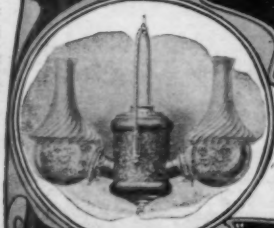

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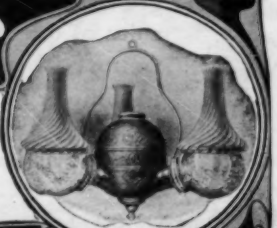

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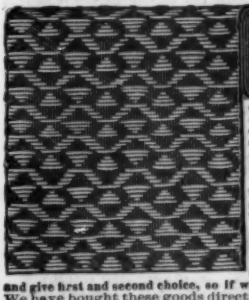

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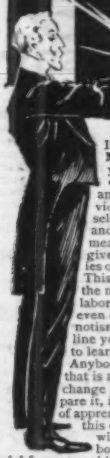

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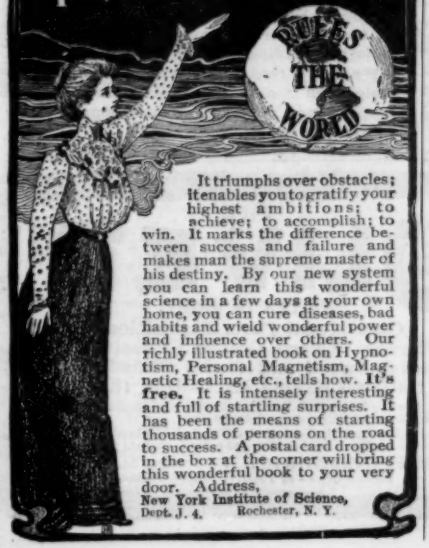

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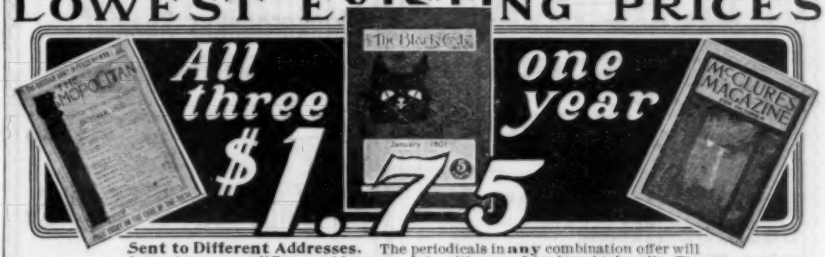

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The makers guarantee results and assert positively, as do thousands of users, that this Cabinet will Purify the Blood, cure Nervousness, Weakness, Aches, Pains, Colds and Rheumatism (they offer $50.00 reward for a case not relieved). Cures Sleeplessness, La Grippe, Neuralgia, Headaches, Indigestion, Piles, Dropsy, all Blood, Skin, Liver, Kidney and Urinary troubles. Has wonderful power to prevent and cure ailments peculiar to Ladies.

A Face and Head Steamer Attachment is furnished if desired, which cleanses the skin, beautifies the complexion, removes Pimples, Black-heads, Eruptions, and is a sure cure for all Skin Diseases, Eczema, Catarrh, Asthma, Bronchitis, and throat troubles.

This is a genuine Cabinet with a real door; handsomely made; best materials; rubber lined; heavy steel frame; top curtains; in fact, all the latest improvements; will last 20 years; not a cheap, flimsy affair, but strong, substantial, ready for use when received.

All readers should write today to the World Mfg. Co., 2014 World Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, for valuable descriptive book and testimonials; or, better still, order a Cabinet at once. You won't be disappointed.

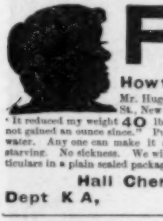
The price is wonderfully low, only $5.00, complete with stove for heating, formulas for baths, and various ailments, and plain directions. Face Steamer, $1.00 extra.

This firm is perfectly reliable; capital, $100,000.00. Ship same day your remittance is received, and will refund your money after 30 days' use if the Cabinet is not just as represented.

Don't fail to send for booklet anyway.

This Cabinet is a wonderful seller for agents, and the firm offers special inducements to both men and women upon request, and to our knowledge many are making from $100 to $150 every month. Write them.

MYSELF CURED I will gladly inform anyone addicted to **COCAINE. MORPHINE. OPIUM OR LAUDANUM,** of a never-failing harmless Home Cure. Address
MRS. M. I. BALDWIN, P. O. Box 1212, Chicago, Ill.



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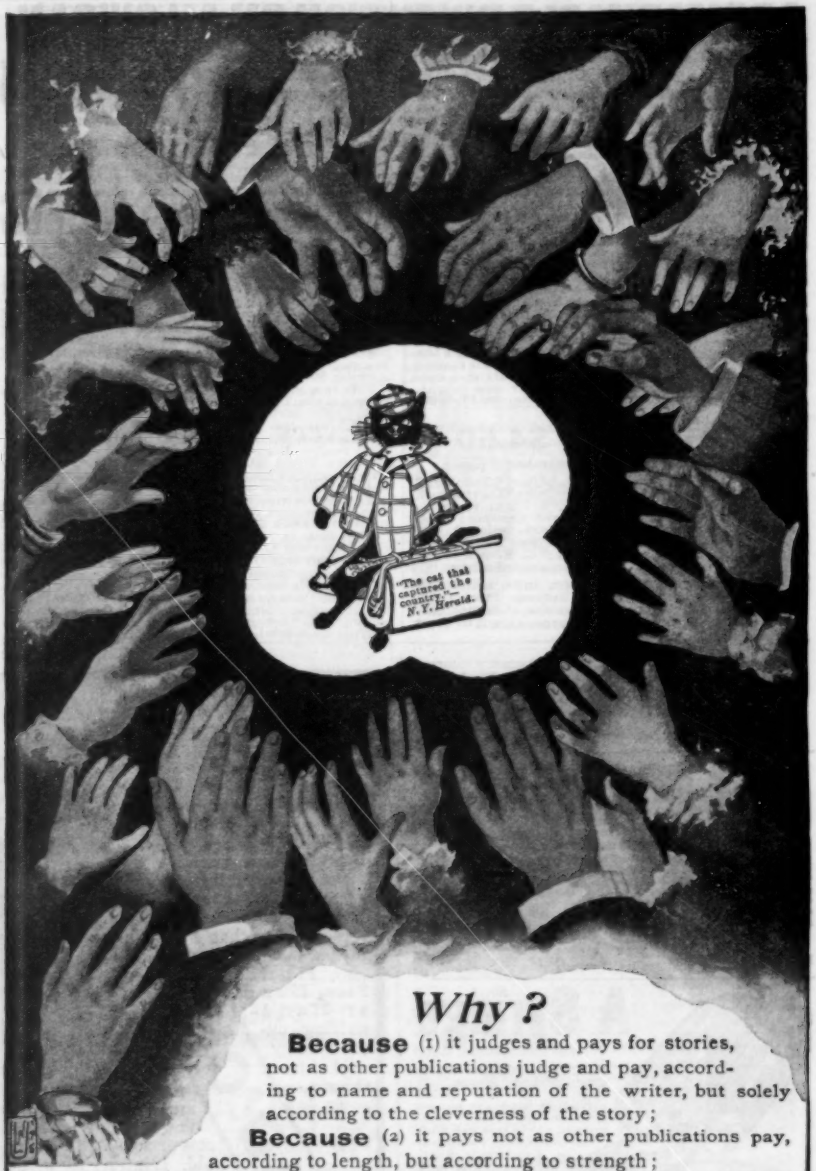

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The Shortstory Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

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Cut this ad. out and mail to us. Send a small sample of your hair, cut close to the roots. **SEND NO MONEY**; we will make and send you by mail, postpaid, a **FINE HUMAN HAIR SWITCH**, as exact match, made 22 inches long from selected human hair, 2¼ ounces, short stem. We will inclose in package with switch sufficient postage to return it to us **if not perfectly satisfactory**, but if found exactly as represented and most extraordinary value and you wish to keep it, either send us **$1.50** by mail within **10 days** or **TAKE ORDERS FOR 3 SWITCHES AT $1.50 EACH** among your friends and send to us **without any money**, we to send the 3 switches to them direct by mail, to be paid for 10 days after received if perfectly satisfactory, and you can then have the switch we send you free for your trouble.

We give Pianos, Organs, Sewing Machines, Dishes, Furniture, Watches, Bicycles, Cameras and other premiums for taking orders for Our Switches. One lady earned a Piano in fifteen days, one a Sewing Machine in 2 days. **Order a Switch at once or** write to-day for **FREE PREMIUM OFFER.** Address,

Ladies' Hair Emporium, Chicago.

REDUCED TO $4.50

For 30 days—**our best $10 Toledo Bath Cabinet** complete with Heater, Directions and Formulas, **$4.50.** Face Steamer 75c extra. Order today. **Our's best made**—has a real door, steel frame, top curtains, rubber lining, folds flat in 1 in. space. **Money back after 30 days' use** if not as represented. Millions need it for bathing purposes, to beautify complexion, **cure** and prevent disease. We sell all makes, factory prices. Catalogue free.

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Toledo Bath Cabinet Co., 604 Cherry St., Toledo, O.

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Marvel Whirling Spray

The new **Vaginal Syringe. Injection and Suction.** The best, safest and most convenient. **It Cleanses Instantly.**

If your druggist cannot supply the MARVEL, accept no other, but write us for Illustrated Book, **sent free**—sealed. It gives price by mail, particulars and directions invaluable to ladies. **Endorsed by Physicians.**

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WANTED—Agents everywhere, either sex; Zarema Diamond; experts puzzled to detect from genuine; liberal commission; catalogue, sample (ring or stud) free on application.

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has removable bottom which enables you to remove without breaking the most delicate cake or pie. Bottom fits in groove; will not leak batter. We make ten styles, round, square and oblong. We are the largest manufacturers of **Pure Aluminum, Scotch Granite and Tin Ware** in the world. **AGENTS**, write how to get free this and others of our best selling household novelties—Outfit worth $2.00—Express prepaid. Address Dept. G. L.

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Our 1901 Catalogue of

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is a 190-page book, 9x11 inches, containing over 700 engravings and 8 superb colored plates of Vegetables and Flowers—a perfect mine of information on garden topics.

To give our Catalogue the largest possible distribution, we make the following liberal offer:

Every Empty Envelope Counts as Cash.

To every one who will state where this advertisement was seen, and who incloses us **10 Cents** (in stamps), we will mail the Catalogue, and also send, **free of charge**, our famous **50-cent "Garden" Collection** of seeds, containing one packet each of *Jubilee Phlox, Giant Victoria Aster, Giant Fancy Pansy, Pink Plume Celery, Mignonette Lettuce,* and *Lorillard Tomato*, in a **red envelope**, which when emptied and returned will be **accepted as a 25-cent cash payment** on any order of goods selected from Catalogue to the amount of $1.00 and upward.

Peter Henderson & Co

35 & 37 Cortlandt Street, New York.

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If you will send your address and 11 1-cent stamps or 10 cts. in silver, to pay for postage and packing, we will send **1 Dewey Crown Lily, 1 Olympia Oxalis, 1 Sampson Begonia, 1 Giant Freesia, 1 Hyacinth.** CATALOGUE FREE.

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FREE, A Catalogue of Rare and Choice Palms, Dwarf Pot Oranges, etc. **FLOWERS**

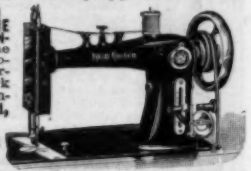
Jessamine Gardens, Jessamine, Fla.

Illustration shows machine closed, to be used as a center table, stand or desk.

SEND NO MONEY,

cut this advertisement out and send to us and we will send you this **OUR HIGH GRADE DROP-HEAD CABINET NEW QUEEN SEWING MACHINE,** by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, equal to the highest grade sewing machines advertised by other houses at $20.00 to $30.00, and as good a machine as you can buy from your dealer at home at $30.00 to $40.00, the greatest bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay your railroad agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE $11.25** and freight charges. Give the machine three months' trial in your own home and we will return your $11.25 any day you are not satisfied.

OUR $11.25 NEW QUEEN SEWING MACHINE IS COVERED BY A BINDING 20-YEAR GUARANTEE, is made by one of the best sewing machine makers in America, has every new and up-to-date improvement, high arm, positive four-motion feed, very light running, does any work that can be done on any sewing machine made. It comes in a beautiful solid antique oak, drop head cabinet, as illustrated. **Oak cabinet is beautifully finished, highly polished, elaborately finished throughout.**



AT $11.25 WE FURNISH THIS SEWING MACHINE COMPLETE WITH ALL ACCESSORIES, including 1 quilter, 2 screwdrivers, 6 bobbins, 1 package of needles, 1 cloth guide and screw, 1 oil can filled with oil, and a complete instruction book, which makes everything so plain that **even a child without previous experience can operate the machine at once. FOR 25 CENTS EXTRA,** we furnish, in addition to the regular accessories mentioned, the following **special attachments:** 1 thread cutter, 1 braider, 1 binder, 1 set of plain hemmers, different widths up to ¼ths of an inch.

THIS ILLUSTRATION gives you an idea of the appearance of the **HIGH GRADE, HIGH ARM NEW QUEEN SEWING MACHINE** which we furnish at **$11.25,** in the handsome 5-drawer drop head oak cabinet illustrated.

SEWING MACHINE DEALERS who will order three or more machines at one time will be supplied with the same machine, under another name, and with our name entirely removed, **but the price will be the same, viz., $11.25,** even in hundred lots. ORDER TODAY. DON'T DELAY. **Such an offer was never known before.**

OUR $98.50 UPRIGHT GRAND PIANO IS A WONDER. Shipped on one year's free trial. Write for free Piano Catalogue.

Address your orders plainly to

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THE ONLY ***PERFECT*** VAGINAL SYRINGE

Its principle of action—that of **INJECTION** and **SUCTION**—assures a thorough cleansing. All in one piece of best soft rubber; always ready for instant use. **Beware of Imitations.** The only **genuine** has signature of DR. F. WILHOFT moulded on each syringe. Accept no other, but *write for* ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET of *"Useful Information for Women Only"* **FREE.**

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given away **ABSOLUTELY FREE** for selling our Jewelry. **No money required.** Send us your name and full address on a postal card, and we will send you 18 gold plate scarf and stick pins, all set with different colored stones, to sell for 10 cents each. **The best sellers offered by any firm.** When you have sold them we will send you your choice of a Watch, a solid Gold Ring and any other valuable premium on our large illustrated list, which we send you with the pins. We pay all postage.

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The set by mail or express from us, charges prepaid, or of druggists, $1.50.

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Deafness is incurable till the cause is removed. Therefore Ear Drums and other artificial aids never cure. 95 per cent. of all cases of Deafness is caused from Catarrh, and as Catarrh cannot exist under the use of **"Actina,"** nobody need be Deaf where the Actina Pocket Battery is obtainable. Are you seeking a cure? Then investigate **"Actina."** Write today for *a valuable book*—Prof. Wilson's Dictionary of Disease. **Free. New York & London Electric Ass'n, 929 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. Dept. 44.**

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FREE Vitro Diamond Ring, Ladies' Neck Chain and Bracelet. Fine Gold laid goods. **You Get All Three.** We trust you with 12 Boxes Cough Tablets, CURE COUGH IN ONE DAY. Sell at 10c. box; send us $1.20, when sold, we send all three presents by return mail. **COMFORT MEDICINE CO., Providence, R. I.**

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Easy Home Cure. Painless. Permanent.

We will send anyone addicted to **Opium, Morphine, Laudanum,** or other drug habit **a Trial Treatment, Free of Charge,** of the most remarkable remedy ever discovered. Contains **Great Vital Principle** heretofore unknown. **Refractory Cases** solicited. Confidential correspondence invited from all, especially **Physicians.** ST. JAMES SOCIETY, 1181 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

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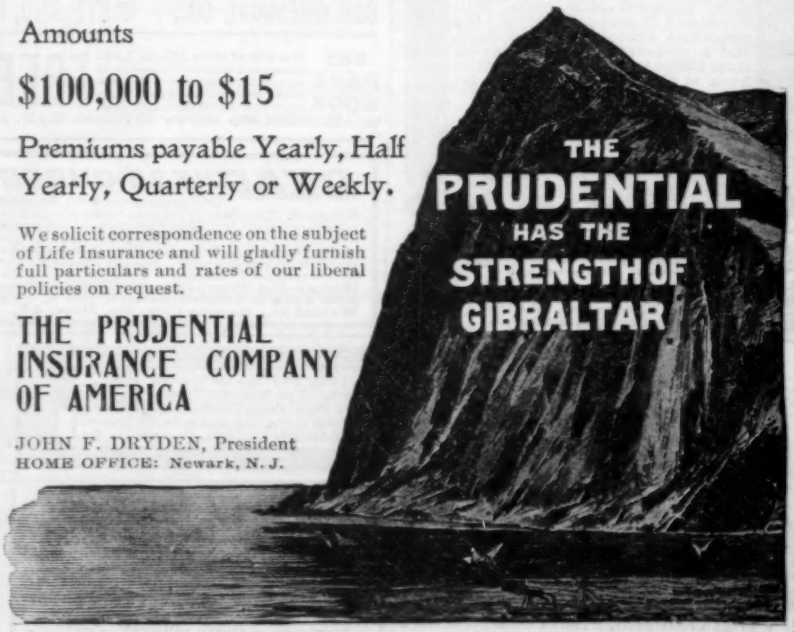
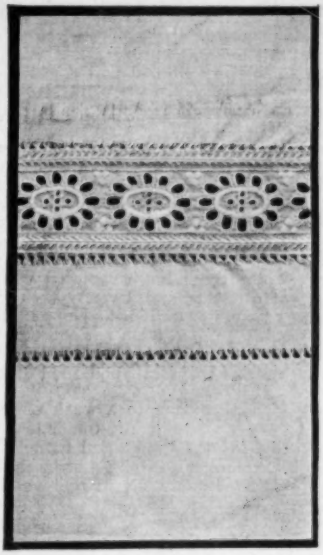
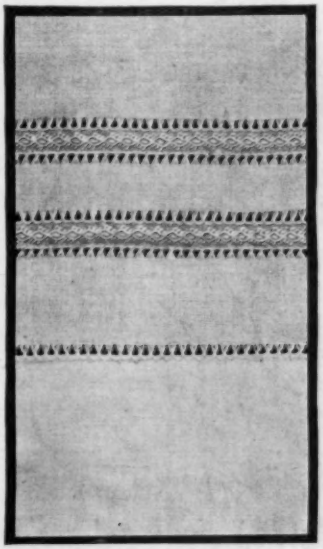




No. 221. Embroidery, Insertion and Hemstitch.
Fancy edge reproduced one-half size.



No. 217. Double Row Novelty Braid.
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Sheets AND Pillow-Cases

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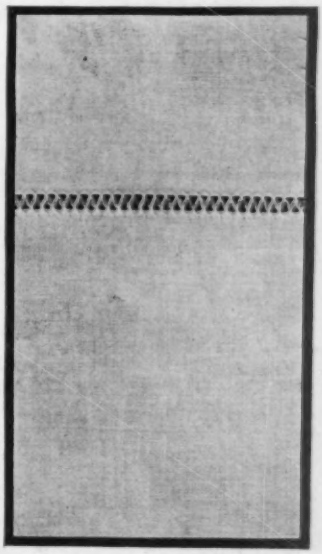

No. 208. Single Zigzag Stitch.
Fancy edge reproduced one-half size.

for the Boudoir

APPROPRIATE
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DEFENDER MANUFACTURING COMPANY'S

Fancy Sheets and Pillow-Cases

are durable, almost everlasting, no matter how roughly handled, and the oftener laundered the softer they become. The Defender Sheets and Pillow-Cases will grace the finest bed in the land, and are truly accorded

The Regency of Bed Elegance

Packed in handsome boxes of **one** or **six** sets—each set being one Defender Embellished Sheet, for **top** sheet (for the under sheet plain Defender sheets are used), and one pair Embellished Pillow-Cases to match. For full-sized bed.

At all First-Class Dry Goods Dealers.

PRICES { $2, $2.50, $4 per set of 3 pieces, one top sheet and two pillow-cases. / $12, $15, $24 per 6 sets of 18 pieces.

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FRAGRANT GRAIN FIELDS.

Food That Takes One Back to Childhood.

"The delicious odor that comes when you pour hot milk or cream over Grape-Nuts, takes one back to childhood and the wide, golden harvest fields when the wind blew in your face the scent of ripened grain, and made you, oh so hungry!

"Of all the appetizing foods, Grape-Nuts food is the chief. I was led to change my diet and take up Grape-Nuts from the fact that I had a very serious, long-standing case of constipation, which originated from coffee drinking Constant headaches, backaches, and a stomach that felt like lead, was the condition; while the mind was filled with misgivings of all sorts, and I verily believe I would have gone insane if it had not been for the temporary relief from various cures for constipation, but there seems to be no permanent relief except in good food like Grape-Nuts.

"This food is the same to a weak stomach as kind words and a gentle touch to an aching heart. All my doubt and fear and distress of mind disappeared as soon as I found a food that I could digest and which relieved my difficulties. Life became brighter and better, my home a "sweet home." I have proved conclusively that the food is really predigested and that it is a great nerve and energy builder. Of course I can hardly express my gratitude for the relief I have had." Emma Kauffman, Bismarck, Mo.

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Perfect in fit, never ragged or uncomfortable. Very convenient, stylish, economical. Made of fine cloth and exactly resemble linen goods. Turn down collars are reversible and give double service.

NO LAUNDRY WORK.

When soiled, discard. **Ten collars or five pairs of cuffs, 25c. By mail, 30c.** Send 6c. in stamps for sample collar or pair of cuffs. Name size and style.

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THAT REVOLUTIONIZED THE HOSE SUPPORTER BUSINESS

No more Darning at the Knees
NEVER SLIPS OR TEARS

The Velvet Grip

Sample pair, by mail, 25c. Catalogue free

CUSHION BUTTON HOSE SUPPORTER

EVERY PAIR WARRANTED

No Stitching in the Elastic

LOOK For the Name on Every Loop

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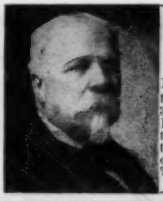

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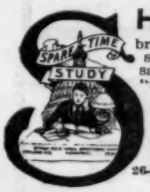

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in our office to-day, "I am surprised to find that my stenographer can write 40 per cent. more letters daily and with much greater accuracy by using your copy-holder." Reduce this statement to dollars and cents. A stenographer receiving $7.00 per week is worth just $2.80 more to the employer by using the Fox *Adjustable* Copy-Holder—saving the cost of the copy-holder and 80c. besides every week. It not only increases the efficiency of the stenographer, but makes work easier by permitting the operator to sit in a natural, easy position, the copy placed to catch the eye instantly, without the necessity of bending over the table for every sentence. It does away with the ache in the back, shoulder and neck and the strained and tired eye.

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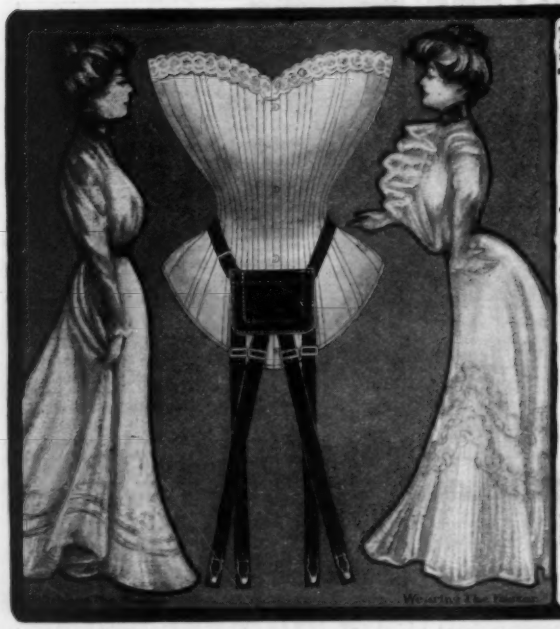

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The U. S. Government Standard
for a perfect Army Ration is 4 or 5 parts of Carbohydrates (Starch) to 1 part Protein (Albumen).
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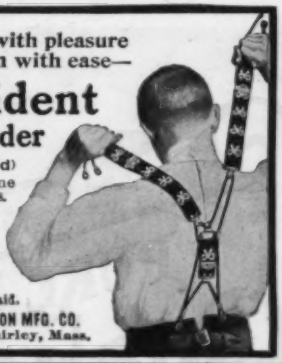

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are hatched by our incubators, and more of them than hens can hatch. Why? Because our regulator never fails to keep the **heat just right. Catalogue printed in 5 languages** gives full descriptions, illustrations and prices, and much information for poultry raisers. **Sent for 6 cents.**

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A beer that is aged and pure is healthful. That is Schlitz.

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FOR $2.20 we furnish a **WAIST PATTERN OF 4 YARDS** of **HEAVY BLACK GROSGRAIN BROCADE SILK**, regular $4.00 value.
FOR $5.50 we furnish a **FULL SKIRT PATTERN OF 10 YARDS**, regular $10.00 value.
FOR $7.70 we furnish **A FULL SUIT PATTERN OF 14 YARDS**, the equal of anything you can buy from your local dealer at home for $14.00.

SEND NO MONEY cut this ad. out and send to us, state whether you wish **waist, skirt or dress pattern** and we will send the goods to you by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine them at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, such value as you could not buy from your storekeeper at home at less than double the price, a class of goods that is seldom found in country stores at any price, **pronounced by everyone the greatest value ever shown in your section, then pay the express agent Our Special Offer Price and express charges.** The express charges will average 25 to 50 cents.

55 CENTS PER YARD FOR REGULAR $1.00 VALUE. 4, 10 or 14-yard lengths, or any lengths desired, **55 cents per yard. OUR SPECIAL 55-CENT PRICE** is less than cost to manufacture. We took the entire stock from one of the largest recent sales at wholesale auction in this country. The goods were closed out to us on our own cash bid, and our 55-cent price is about one-half the regular price. **These goods are 19 inches wide, heavy black Grosgrain Brocade Silk.** Comes in a variety of choice patterns, guaranteed absolutely pure, will make a handsome and durable separate waist or skirt and in an entire costume it certainly would be superb. **The silk is made in France by one of the largest French weavers. The brocade patterns are Entirely New for 1901. They are a class of goods that will be found only in the best retail stores and there at $1.00 to $1.25 a yard.**

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For 10c in stamps we send samples of our entire line of silks.

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make a joy of life and make attractive even the plainest of features.

There can be no perfect health, no real beauty in young or old, without good, sound teeth.

Good teeth are preserved, yellow teeth whitened, the breath made sweet, life made livable and the features attractive, by the use of

WRIGHT'S
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TOOTH PASTE

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for the teeth, mouth, gums and breath

A creamy, delicious dentifrice, in convenient, collapsible tubes. Contains all the properties of the famous WRIGHT'S ANTISEPTIC MYRRH TOOTH SOAP. DENTOMYRH comes also as a powder and wash.

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NEVER SLIPS OR TEARS

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Increase Height, Arch the Instep, Make Better Fitting Shoes, Remove Jar in Walking. Indorsed by physicians. Simply placed in the heel, felt down. Do not require larger shoes. 1-2 in. 25c., 3-4 in. 35c., 1 in. 50c. per pair. At shoe and department stores.

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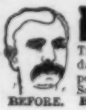

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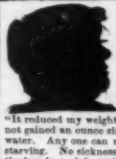

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GOLD, SILVER, NICKEL AND METAL PLATING. NEW, QUICK PROCESS.

You can positively make $5 to $15 a day, at home or traveling, taking orders, using and selling **Prof. Gray's** new line of Dynamos, complete Plating Outfits and Supplies. **No toys.** Unequaled for plating watches, jewelry, tableware, bicycles, all metal goods. Heavy plate. **Warranted. No experience necessary. LET US START YOU IN BUSINESS.** We do plating ourselves. Have years of experience. We manufacture the only practical outfits, including all tools, lathes and materials. All sizes complete, for jewelers, agents, shops, manufrs and factories. Ready for work when received. **Guaranteed. New modern methods. WE TEACH you the art, furnish recipes, formulas and trade secrets FREE. THE ROYAL PROF. GRAY'S NEW DIPPING PROCESS.** Quick. Easy. Latest method. Goods dipped in melted metal, taken out instantly with finest, most brilliant plate, ready to deliver. Thick plate every time. **Guaranteed 5 to 10 years. A boy plates from 200 to 500 pieces tableware daily. No electricity, dynamo or polishing necessary with this process.**

DEMAND FOR PLATING IS ENORMOUS. Every family, hotel and restaurant have goods plated instead of buying new. Its cheaper and better. Every dealer, shop and factory want an outfit, or plating done. **You will not need to canvass.** Our customers have all the work they can do. People bring it. You can hire boys cheap to do your plating, the same as we, and solicitors to gather work for a small per cent. Replating is honest and legitimate. Customers delighted. **WE ARE AN OLD ESTABLISHED FIRM.** Been in business for years. Know what is required. **Our customers have the benefit of our experience.**

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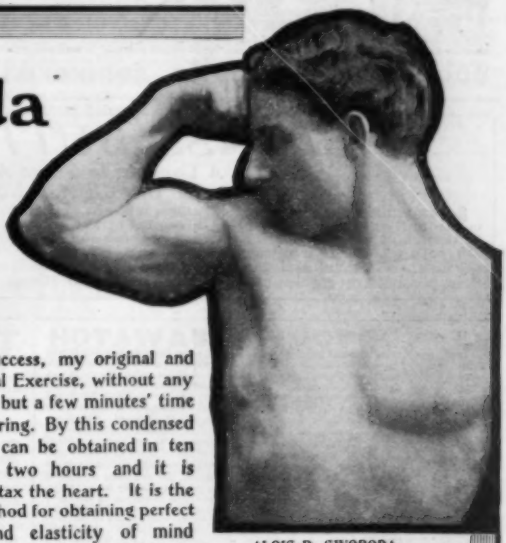
of PHYSIOLOGICAL EXERCISE

Restores the Health,

Strengthens the Heart.



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I teach by mail with perfect success, my original and scientific method of Physiological Exercise, without any apparatus whatever and requiring but a few minutes' time in your own room just before retiring. By this condensed system more exercise and benefit can be obtained in ten minutes than by any other in two hours and it is the only one which does not overtax the heart. It is the only natural, easy and speedy method for obtaining perfect health, physical development and elasticity of mind and body.

PERFECT HEALTH means an absolute freedom from those ailments which a well informed mind knows are directly or indirectly due to a lack of properly arranged exercise.

ABSOLUTELY CURES CONSTIPATION, INDIGESTION, SLEEPLESSNESS, NERVOUS EXHAUSTION AND REVITALIZES THE WHOLE BODY.

A Strong Endorsement from Mr. J. L. Jones, Vice-President and Secretary, Jones Dry Goods Co., of Kansas City.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 24, 1900.

Mr. Alois P. Swobodo, Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Mr. Swoboda:—As I have had numerous requests by mail from different sections of the country to give my ideas of your system of physiological exercise, I will write you this letter which if you see fit, you can have published, and which will prove I hope, an answer to all these inquiries as I am a pretty busy man.

On February 15, 1898, after years of gradual but certain decline, physically and mentally, I had a complete nervous prostration or collapse. It was impossible for me to sleep without medicine and I went without natural sleep for the period of about ten months. I tried the best physicians to be had, traveled almost constantly, being unable to remain long in one place, took hunting trips in Colorado and a seacoast trip to Northern Maine with no appreciable result. I had been constipated for sixteen or seventeen years and had to take physic constantly, never having a natural action.

I was advised by Mr. Seested, business manager of the Kansas City Star, to call on you with my physician, you will remember, I called and spent two hours with you and he advised me to take the treatment, as it could do me no harm and might do mea great deal of good. That was on October 24, 1898. At that time I felt sure I was going to lose my mind. I could not sleep without medicine, was completely unfitted for business or for anything else, and there was scarcely a function of my body that would work satisfactorily. Within thirty days after beginning your exercise treatment, my constipation had gone, and I have never taken a physic since; within sixty days I was attending to considerable business and within ninety days I was at my desk, and have grown stronger ever since, until today, I weigh more than I ever did in my life, with not a pound nor an ounce of surplus flesh.

I am in better health than I have ever been in my life. Constipation gone, nervous dyspepsia gone, the nervous prostration feeling entirely eradicated, and my ability to sleep is equal to that of any period in my life.

Trusting this letter may be instrumental in causing other sufferers to take hold of your natural, rational line of treatment and follow it to the same splendid result that the writer did, I beg to remain, Yours with sincerest gratitude.

J. LOGAN JONES.

Pupils are both sexes ranging in age from fifteen to eighty-six and all recommend the system. Since no two people are in the same physical condition individual instructions are given in each case.

Write at once, mentioning this magazine, for full information and convincing endorsements from many of America's leading citizens.

ALOIS P. SWOBODA,
170 Venetian Bldg., Chicago.

50 EGGS is a Lot of Eggs.

Remember this when somebody tells you that a 50-egg incubator is too small to be of any practical use. If the eggs are all good the **BANTAM HATCHER** will give you 50 live chicks.

Self-regulating

It's ready to "set" again immediately, you know. It's so good and so sure, that we send it anywhere on 30 days free trial. It only costs you $5. It's all ready to "go"—when you get it. Fill the lamp and tank, light—it will do the rest. Send 14c for catalogue No. 54.

BUCKEYE INCUBATOR CO., SPRINGFIELD, O.

BRASS BUTTONS.

A Comedy in Three Acts.
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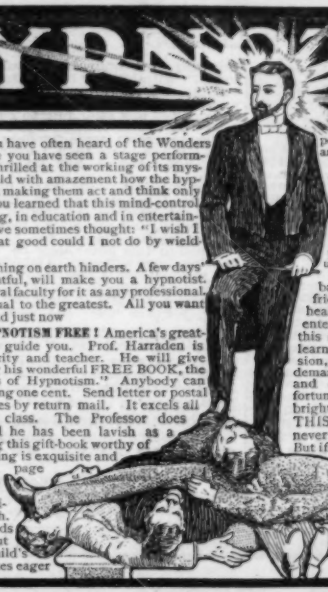

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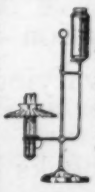

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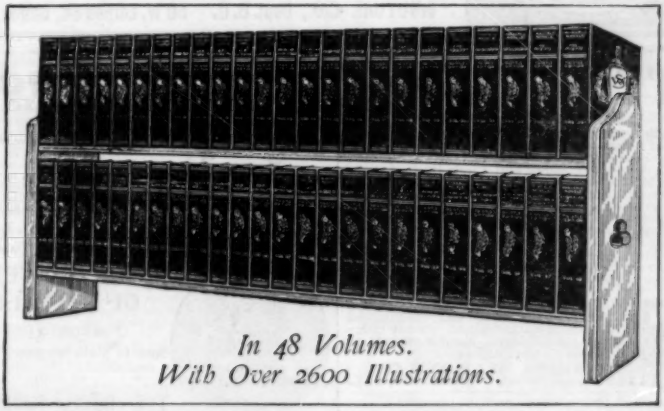

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Many ladies and gentlemen who cannot complain of any kind of sickness, are abnormally thin and cannot find any medical treatment which will correct this condition. Dr. Whitney's Nerve and Flesh Builder is not alone intended for those who are sick, but also for those who appear well and hearty but cannot acquire sufficient flesh to round out the form. In dyspepsia, indigestion, all stomach troubles, debility and nervous diseases, no remedy is so prompt and powerful. In order to demonstrate the wonderful merits of Dr. Whitney's Nerve and Flesh Builder, every person who will address the K. L. Jones Co., Elmira, N. Y., will receive a large trial package in plain sealed wrapper absolutely free.

ZAREMA DIAMOND

WANTED—Agents everywhere, either sex; Zarema Diamond; experts puzzled to detect from genuine; liberal commission; catalogue, sample (ring or stud) free on application.

ZAREMA DIAMOND CO., 115 Adams Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

Baldness

Dandruff, Falling Hair, Scalp Diseases cured by a simple remedy—"Palmora," the finest hair grower made. Purely vegetable. Contains no Sugar of Lead, Sulphur, Nitrate of Silver or any other injurious ingredients. Restores grey hair to its natural color. Beautifies, thickens and forces a luxuriant growth of hair to shining scalps, eyebrows, eyelashes and moustaches. Used by gentlemen and ladies. Send 4 cents postage for trial bottle, etc. Address,

Maxwell Remedy Co.
Dept. 222. St. Louis, Mo.

"NIGHT SCENES OF CITY LIFE"

(SOMETHING GOOD.)

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MORPHINE habit cured in 10 to 20 days. 30,000 cases cured. NO PAY TILL CURED. Address DR. J. L STEPHENS CO. Dept. B. 9 Lebanon, Ohio.

Cures Goitre

Remarkable Discovery that Cures This Dangerous and Disfiguring Disease without Pain, Operation or Inconvenience.

TRIAL PACKAGE SENT FREE

Dr. John P. Haig, a well known Cincinnati physician, has had marvelous success with a remedy that cures Goitre or Thick Neck. And owing to the fact that most sufferers believe Goitre is incurable Dr. Haig sends a free trial package of his discovery so that patients may try and know positively that Goitre can be cured at home without pain, danger, operation or any inconvenience. Send your name and address to Dr. John P. Haig, 975 Glenn Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, and he will forward the treatment postage prepaid. Do not fail to get this wonderful remedy. In Bombay, India, 60,000 patients in that infected district were cured with this same remedy, and wherever used its success has been marvelous.

Write at once, send name and address today, and Dr. Haig will be glad to send you a trial package of the remedy free. Do not delay.

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Marvelous development accomplished by the new and wonderful "Vestro" method of enlarging the Female Bust.

Flat-chested and unattractive women are quickly developed into commanding figures that excite wonderment and admiration.

A new and surprisingly effective home treatment has been discovered that enlarges the female bust at least six inches. Women who are not lacking in this respect will not be particularly interested, but those who by some unfortunate circumstance of health or occupation are deficient in this development will be very much fascinated by the peculiar prominence achieved by the treatment. It is called "Vestro" and is controlled by the well known Aurum Medicine Co.

There is no doubt about the marvelous power of this new treatment to develop the bust to a gratifying extent. Any lady who wishes to know more about Vestro should send her name and address to the Aurum Medicine Co. They will send free, in plain sealed envelope by mail, a new "beauty book" they have just prepared, also photographs from life showing the actual development induced and a great number of testimonials from physicians, chemists and prominent ladies all commending the wonderful and remarkable power of Vestro to enlarge the bust no matter how flat the chest may be. Do not fail to write at once. The beauty book and portraits will delight you. All you need do is to send name and address and a two-cent stamp to pay postage. Address

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REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., Dept. O, Boston.

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The "Best" Tonic goes hand in hand with perfect health and strength. It creates energy, ambition, and ability to enjoy all the sweetness of life. It drives away melancholy and dismal forebodings, and brings bright, smiling eyes and rosy cheeks. It is "sunshine" in the home. Thousands of women might be like this to-day, for they lack only the *right* help to make them whole and happy.

Too many causes produce the opposite condition,—household cares, worry, maternity, sickness or weak nerves. It usually means just one thing—the blood is thin and watery, without strength-giving, nerve-building qualities. Nor is this condition of low vitality confined to women. Men wear themselves out by overwork and worry, until they, too, become "bloodless." Yet all that is needed is a first-rate tonic,

Pabst Malt Extract
The "Best" Tonic

Feed the blood with proper nourishment and it will grow rich in life-giving red corpuscles, and carry vigorous strength to every nerve, bone and muscle.

This condition is not sickness. It requires no rigorous, heroic treatment. You will be surprised to find how quickly it yields to Pabst Malt Extract, The "Best" Tonic. Dyspepsia departs. The brain awakes to new and pleasurable sensations. Pessimists become optimists, for new life shows forth in fresh, healthful color and conscious strength.

The "Best" Tonic, made of malted barley and hops, contains only pure, concentrated food for muscles and nerves, bringing true nourishment and restful sleep. Pleasant to take. Quick in beneficial results. Ask the doctor, if he has not already prescribed it. Take no substitute. PABST MALT EXTRACT is The "Best" Tonic. All druggists sell it.

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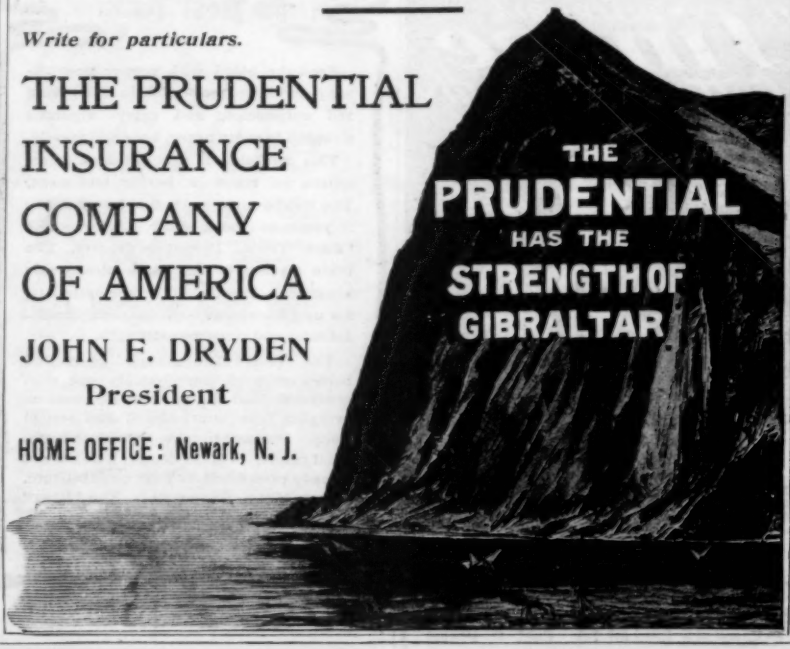

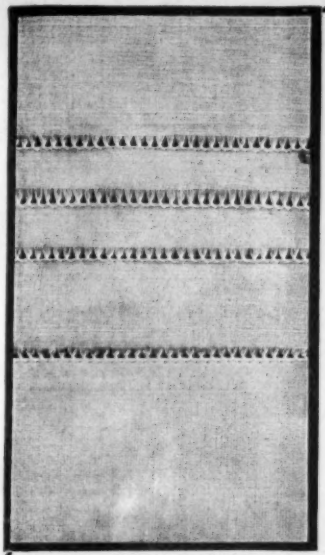

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Made from Defender Mills Sheeting

The cheapest and most popular quality.

Sheets *and* PILLOW CASES

Made by

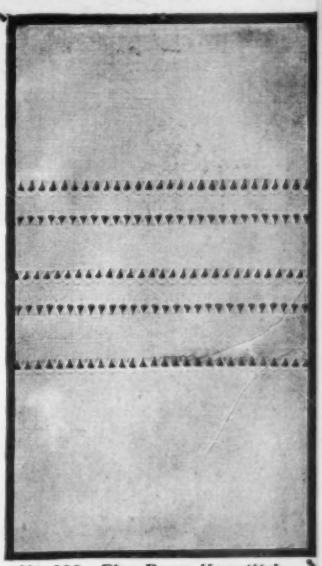
THE DEFENDER MFG. CO.

Are the Standard.

Principal Brands are

Defender, Palma, Selkirk, Wexford.

These four brands satisfy every demand. Made in all sizes and in all prevailing styles. Plain Hem, Hem, Spoke, Zig-zag, Mexican Drawn, and other fancy stitches. Also Embroidery and Novelty Braid Insertion.



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Made from Palma Mills Sheeting.

A finer quality than Defender, and very popular.

Fancy Patterns in Sheets & Pillow Cases are the Vogue

A Royal Gift for any occasion. They are put up in sets, one sheet and two pillow cases (see illustrations), or in a package containing one-half dozen sheets and one dozen pillow cases. Fancy styles are made from Palma Mills Sheeting, unless otherwise ordered. Prices per set are $2.00, $2.50, $3.00 and $4.00.

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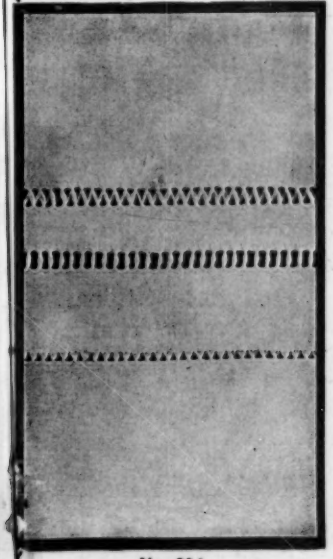

No. 206.
Zig-zag, Spoke and Hemstitch.

EVERY article made by The Defender Mfg. Co. is absolutely perfect and free from disease germs. There is no sweat-shop work. Be sure that the Defender Mfg. Co.'s Blue Label is on every sheet and Pillow Case. Don't take something "just as good." There is nothing quite so good as

Defender Mfg. Co.'s Products

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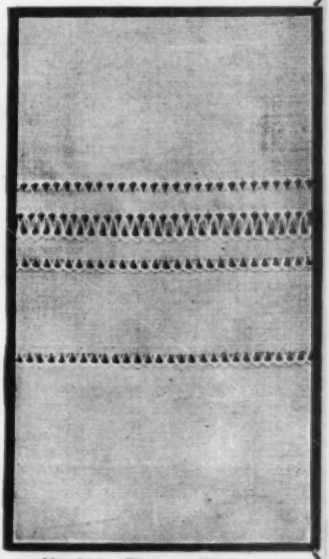
The finest quality made.



No. 215. Zig-zag, Mexican Drawnwork and Hemstitch.

S. J. PARKHILL & CO., PRINTERS, BOSTON, U.S.A.

A PRIVILEGE

Thrown Away Entirely.

It is curious to observe how hard it is for some people to give up coffee drinking after they have become at least half satisfied that it is the cause of their ill health, but it becomes an easy task to give it up when one takes Postum Food Coffee in its place, providing, of course, that Postum is made according to directions, for then it has the rich, beautiful color, and a satisfying taste, while the rapid improvement in health clinches the argument.

A young lady at Cambridgeport, Mass., says: "When it was shown to me plainly that my ill health and excessive nervousness was largely due to the coffee habit, I realized that I must give it up, but it was next to impossible to do so. However, I made the trial and took Postum Food Coffee, with the mental reservation of the 'privilege,' as I termed it, of drinking coffee once a week.

"Little did I dream what a true friend Postum was destined to become to me. The old stomach trouble left, the nervousness vanished, and good, natural, healthy sleep came to my relief. In less than six months I felt like another person, I was so well and happy.

"The 'reserve privilege' in regard to using regular coffee was thrown to the winds. I have not the slightest desire for it; in fact, I very much prefer my Postum to any coffee."

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MORROW
COASTER BRAKE
DEAR MADAM
We prescribe the Morrow Coaster Brake for absolute safe riding for you. Men can stand more shaking up and tumbles than you can. However, we do recommend them for men's wheels, too. This prescription can be filled by any bicycle dealer.
The Morrow Coaster Brake fits any bicycle, the newest as well as the oldest makes. Your wheel is always under control, and you ride fifty miles, but pedal only thirty-five miles. Talk with any reliable dealer about it. Send for booklet.
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ECLIPSE MANUFACTURING CO.,
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HOW the five senses all delight in RUBIFOAM! It makes beautiful teeth to look upon, gives a feeling of soundness to both teeth and gums, leaves a delicious taste and a delicately fragrant breath. You hear of it everywhere. It appeals to your sense and senses.

25 Cents a Bottle.

SAMPLE VIAL for 2 cents in stamps.

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PEARS' SOAP
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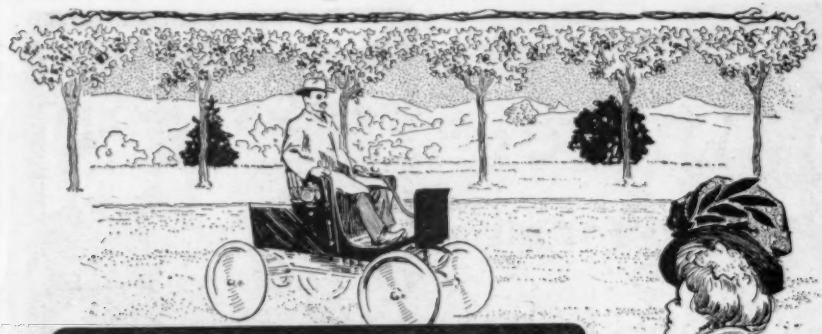

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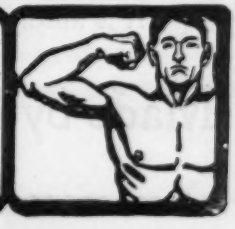

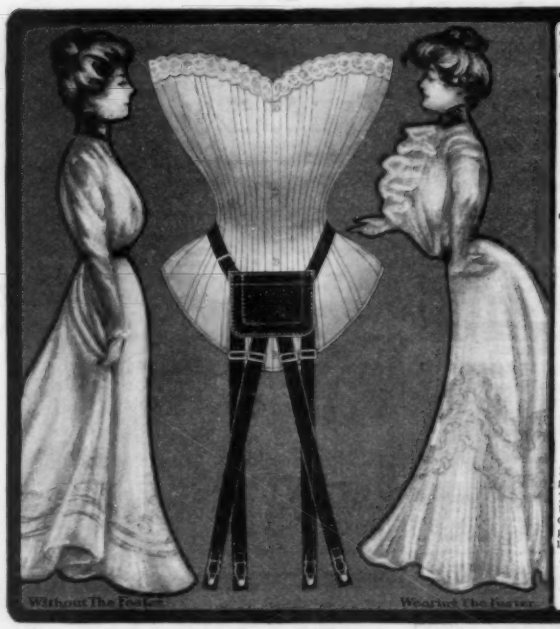

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The only supporter with a pad large enough and supporting bands strong enough to push back the entire abdomen, assuring the wearer a correct standing position and the much desired straight front. It has a waist band which presses on the sides of the waist, making it round, and has no metal parts to mar or tear the corset.

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Heavy silk web, **$1.25**
Large pad if desired

See that the name "Foster" is stamped on every pair. Get it of your dealer. If he hasn't it, **take no substitute**, but order of us direct. Name your dealer, and give color, height and waist measure.

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Hot biscuits, rich cakes and pastry can be eaten with genuine relish and no fear of digestive disorders when they are made with

B. T. BABBITT'S BEST BAKING POWDER

It is absolutely pure and unsurpassed in quality.

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Unlike Wheat Foods, which are composed almost entirely of Starch, QUAKER OATS contains plenty of Protein for tissue and muscle, enough Fat for reserve force, and sufficient Mineral Matter to build up and maintain the bony structure, the teeth and the hair. Cook it exactly according to directions on package. ***At all Grocers'. In 2-lb. Packages only, with Quaker Figure.***

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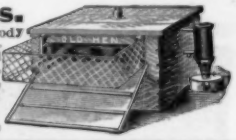

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have all the latest improvements, are sold at **very low prices** and **guaranteed to please** every customer. Send **6 cents** for our 154 page catalogue, which contains **full descriptions** of our extensive line and tells **how to raise poultry successfully.** Plans for poultry and brooder houses.

Des Moines Incubator Co., Box 118, Des Moines, Ia.

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Recognizing that there was "room at the top," we have issued not an ordinary catalogue but the

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Contains the latest and best thought on the poultry question, from the egg through all its changes, to the market. No subject missed. Written from practical experience. The world renowned **Reliable Incubators** and **Brooders**, used all over the U. S. and in 51 foreign countries, receive deserved attention. Book mailed anywhere for 10c.

RELIABLE INC. & BROODER CO., Box B-199, Quincy, Ill.

20TH CENTURY ELECTRO-VAPOR LAUNCHES

will be used exclusively at the Pan-American Exposition because they are the best. They are elegantly finished, simple, seaworthy, safe, reliable and **FULLY GUARANTEED.** Stock sizes 15 to 50 ft. **$150** buys a Launch this year. Send 10c. for handsome catalogue of Steam and Sail Yachts, Row Boats, Canoes, etc. Order now; avoid spring rush.

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One in each town to ride and exhibit sample 1901 Bicycle. **BEST MAKES**

1901 Models, $10 to $18

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500 Second-hand Wheels

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Send 2 cent stamp for copy with particulars.

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Ask nearest ticket agent for reduced rates and other information.

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The Extreme of Purity

You who visit the Schlitz brewery marvel first at its cleanliness. No wonder the beer is pure!

Then we show you a plate-glass room where we cool it. The very air of that room has been filtered. You smile at the thought that common air is not pure enough.

Then we show the filter through which all Schlitz beer must go. You wonder what there can be to filter out.

Then we show you how we bottle and seal it; then actually sterilize every bottle. You ask whether that isn't a needless extreme.

No; nothing is needless. Beer can be, and is, brewed without one of those precautions. Pure beer is impossible without all of them.

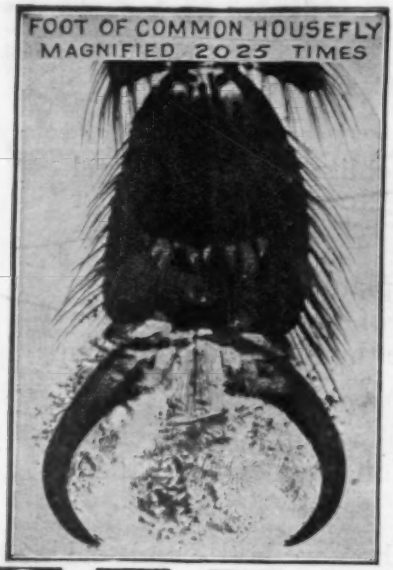
Brewing—like digestion—turns barley starch into sugar; and a saccharine product is a breeding place for germs. The slightest taint multiplies itself.

That is why we go to extremes.

And we age Schlitz beer, too. It will not ferment on your stomach and cause biliousness, like green beer.

We tell you this, for when you know what we know about it, you will not drink any beer but Schlitz, "The beer that made Milwaukee famous."

J. L. STACK



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Tanglefoot Sticky Fly Paper.....

It Catches the GERM as well as the FLY

I Print My Own Cards Circulars, Books, Newspaper

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THE PRESS CO., Meriden, Conn.

How To Stop Drinking.

Every victim of the drink habit tries at times to free himself from what he knows to be a form of slavery. But the terrible depression and craving which follows the sudden stopping of the use of alcohol drives him again to a renewal of its use. The Bartlett treatment from the outs t renders alcoholic stimulants unnecessary, and puts the patient immediately in such physical and mental condition—completely restoring the shattered nervous system—that there is no longer that feeling of need of extra stimulation. The cure begins at once, and there is no period of terrible, unsatisfied craving for the accustomed stimulant.

These men, as well as hundreds of other workers in the cause of temperance, speak from personal knowledge of what the Bartlett Cure does:

Hon. L. S. Coffin, President Railroad Temperance Association of America: The work of the BARTLETT CURE is well-nigh miraculous. It stands in advance of all other cures for drunkenness.

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The Bartlett Cure is a home treatment, taken without publicity or one day's detention from business. It restores the nerves, sweetens the stomach, destroys the drink crave, and leaves one in perfect health. Send for book on Alcoholism, mailed free.

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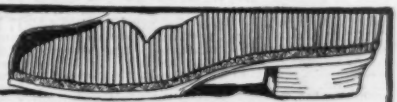

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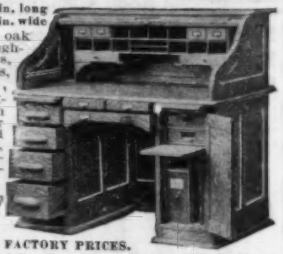

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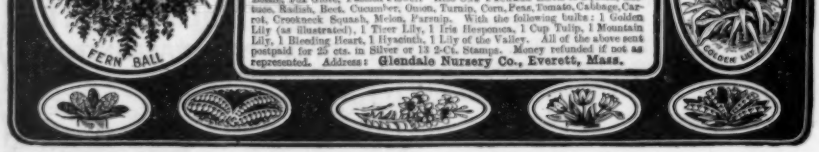

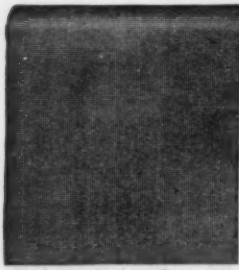

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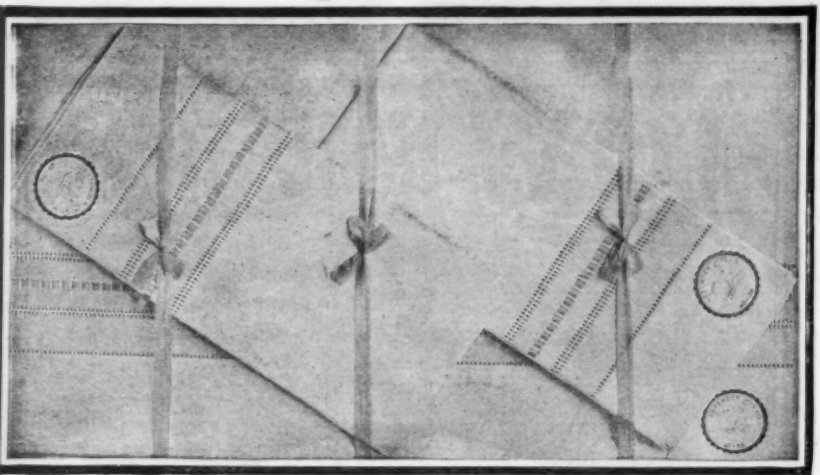

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These four brands satisfy every demand. Made in all sizes and in all prevailing styles. Plain Hem, Hemstitch, Spoke, Zig-zag, Mexican Drawn Work, and other fancy stitches. Also Embroidery and Novelty Braid Insertion.

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A Royal Gift for any occasion. They are put up in sets, one sheet and two pillow cases (see illustrations), or in a package containing one-half dozen sheets and one dozen pillow cases. Fancy styles are made from Palma Mills Sheeting, unless otherwise ordered. Prices per set are $2.00, $2.50, $3.00 and $4.00.

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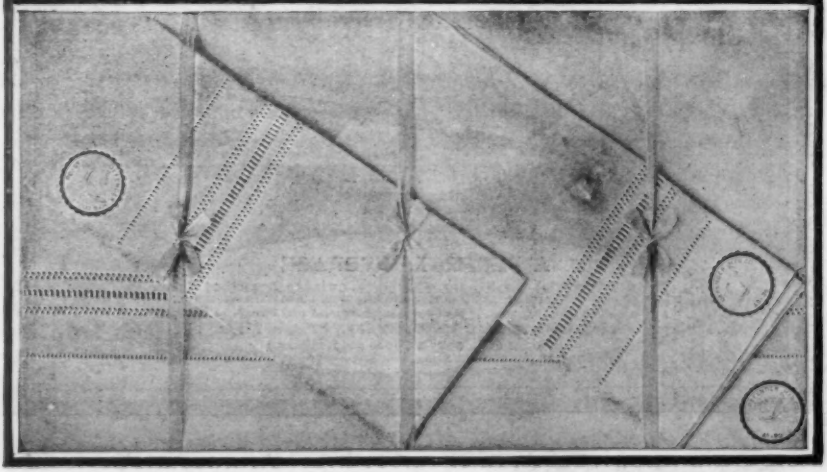

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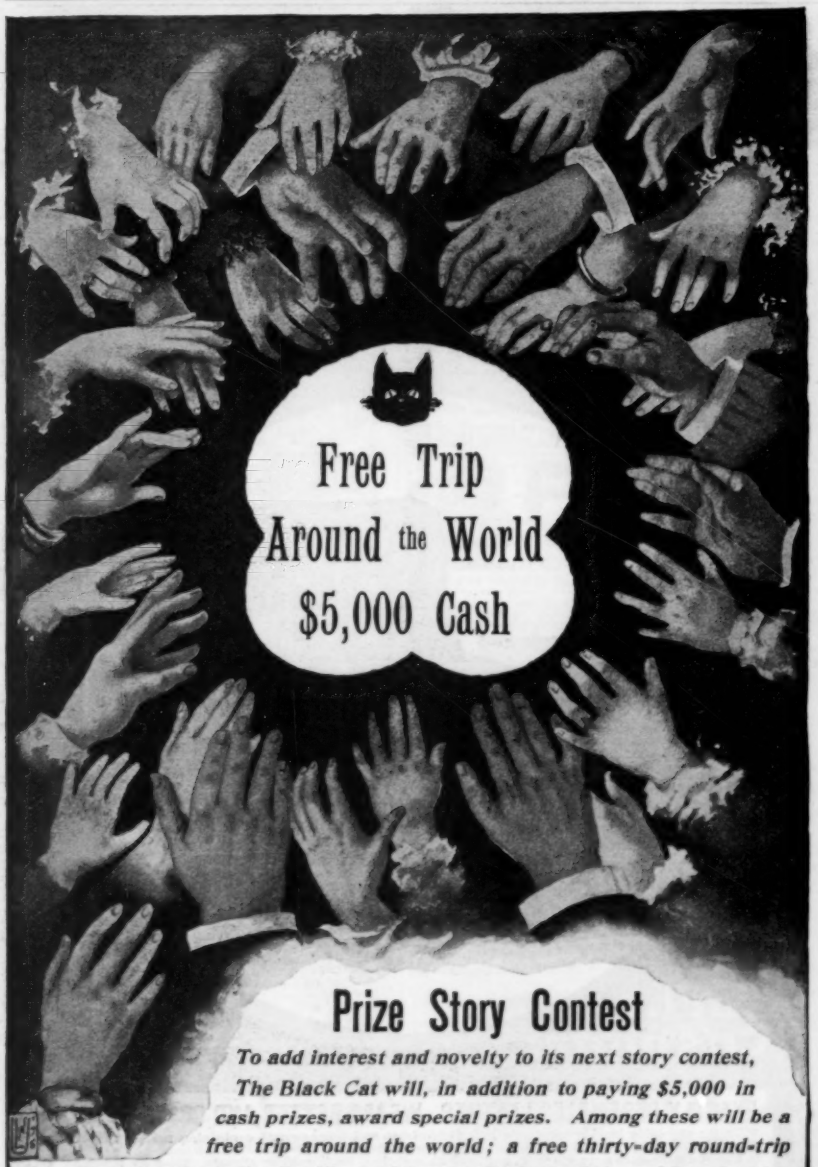

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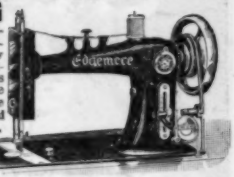

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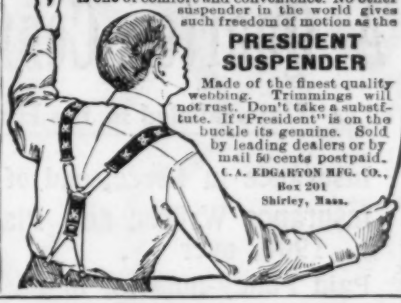

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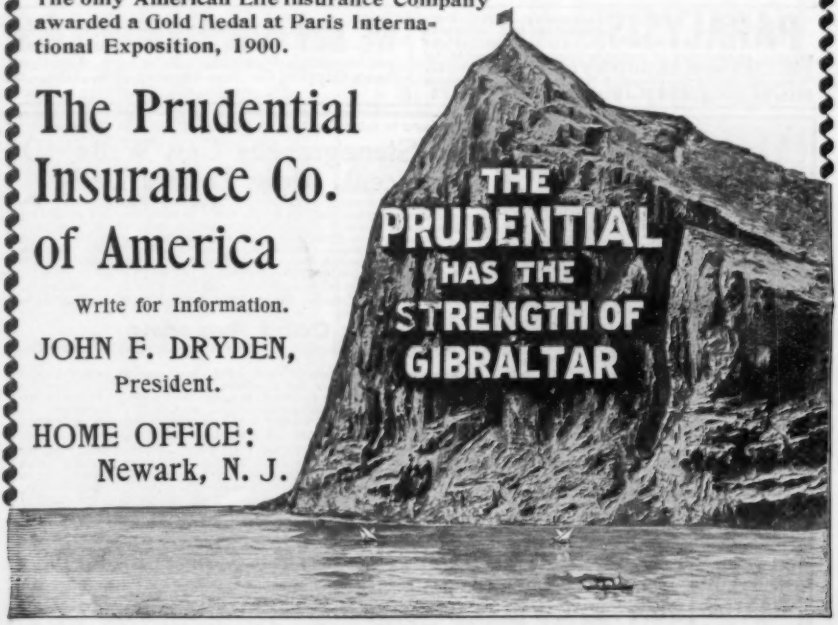

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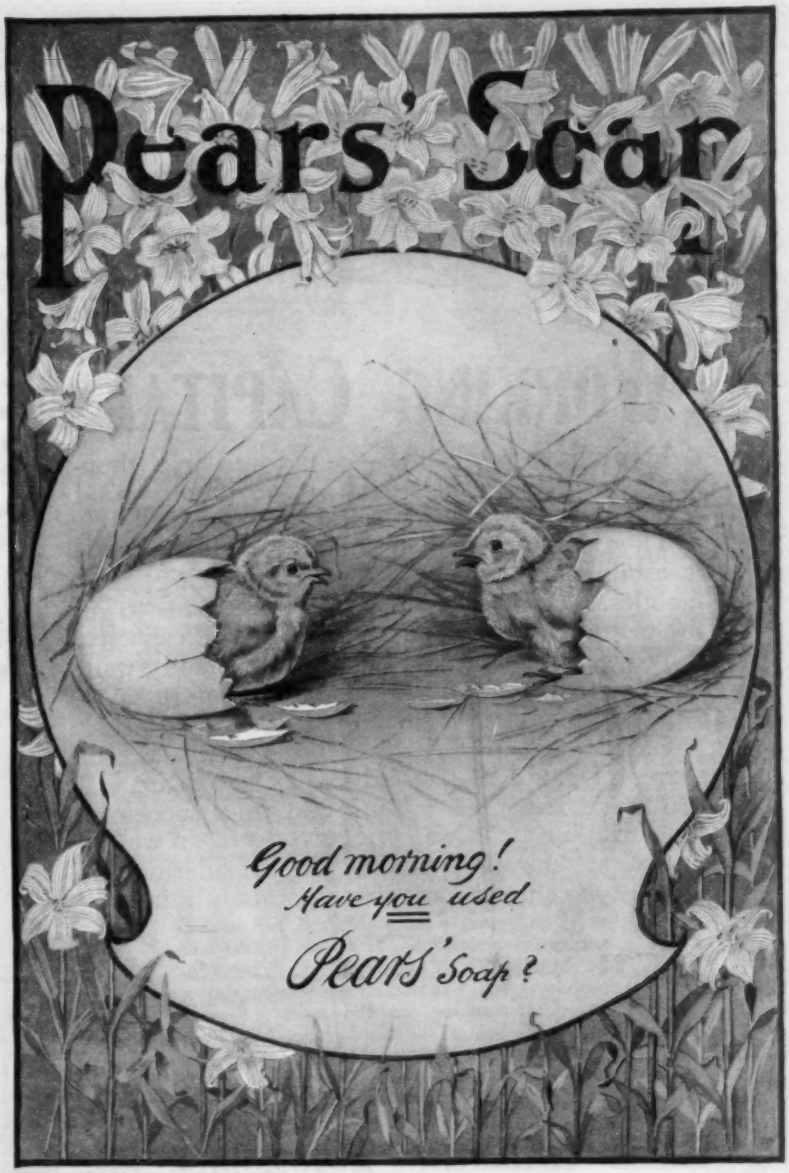

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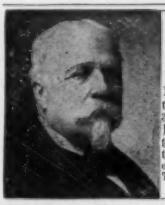

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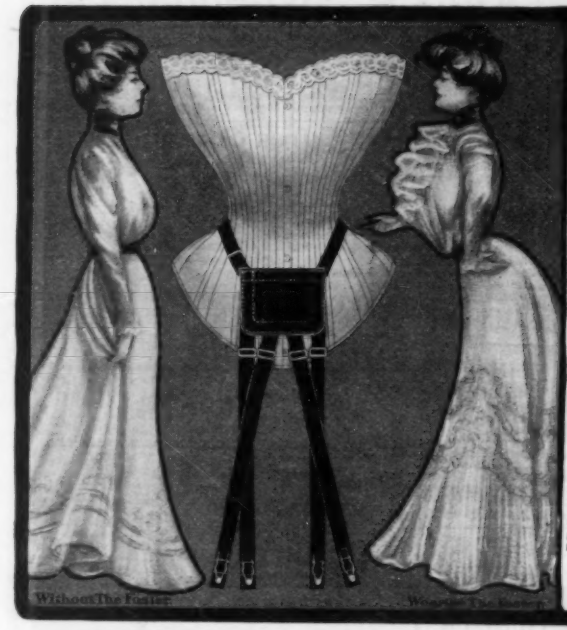

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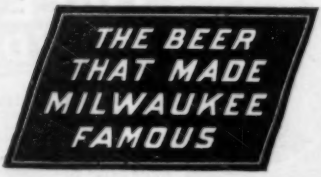

J. L. STACK

Transmission of Infection by FLIES

1

2

3

4

The Medical Age, June 10, 1900, says: "An interesting experiment illustrative of the possibility of transmission of infection through the agency of flies is communicated by Dr. F. Smith of Sierra Leone (Public Health, Dec., 1899). Four Petri dishes were prepared, three with sterile serum, and one with a culture of diphtheria on serum. A common house fly was made to walk first over a sterile dish (No. 1), then over the one on which was the growth of diphtheria (No. 2), and next over the other two sterile ones (Nos. 3 and 4). Nos. 1, 3 and 4 were then placed in an incubator. On the following day No. 1 showed only a few cocci, but Nos. 3 and 4 showed colonies of diphtheria bacilli in the tracks of the fly. In other words:

1st. Four dishes of gelatinous food were so prepared that they contained not even the smallest germ of any kind.

2d. Some diphtheria germs were planted in Dish No. 2.

3d. A fly was made to walk over Dish No. 1, so that its feet were perfectly cleaned, everything adhering to them picked off by the gelatinous surface remaining upon the same.

4th. Then the fly was made to walk over Dish No. 2, containing the diphtheria germs.

5th. To learn if any diphtheria germs had fastened themselves to the fly's feet it was made to walk over the pure sterilized dishes Nos. 3 and 4.

6th. Dishes Nos. 3 and 4 were placed in an incubator to develop any germs which might have been deposited by the fly's feet.

7th. The next day colonies of bacilli had developed in the tracks of the fly, thus proving conclusively that flies carry contagion.

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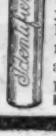

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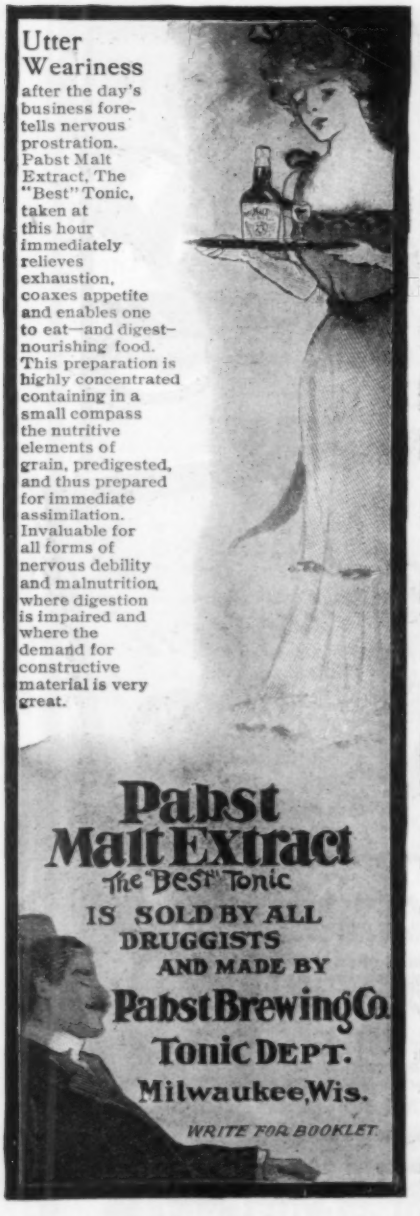
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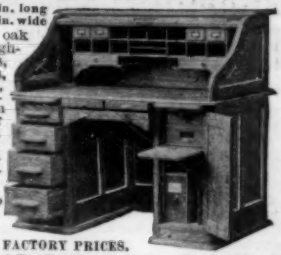

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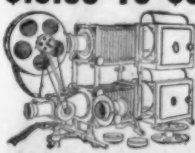

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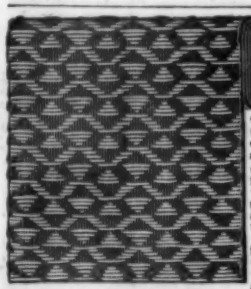

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The excessive use of Alcohol, Morphine, Opium or Chloral produces a disease which yields easily to the

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This treatment for alcoholism is self-administered by the patient at home without publicity or detention from business. The craving appetite is permanently removed without resorting to will power, as the patient is entirely immunized from further desire as well as cured from the disease which causes the desire for the stimulants. It is in high favor as there are no bad after effects. ***Endorsed by business firms of national reputation.*** Upon application convincing proofs will be sent as to the efficaciousness of this wonderful treatment, which has reclaimed hundreds of relapses from other treatments.

THE PAQUIN IMMUNE CO.

Chemical Building. Department 52. **ST. LOUIS, MO.**

BIG SILK GOODS SALE

FOR $2.20 we furnish a waist pattern of 4 yards of HEAVY BLACK GROSGRAIN BROCADE SILK, regular $4.00 value.

FOR $5.50 we furnish a full skirt pattern of 10 yards, regular $10.00 value.

FOR $7.70 we furnish a full suit pattern of 14 yards, the equal of anything you can buy from your dealer at home for $14.00.

SEND NO MONEY cut this ad. out and send to us, state whether you wish waist, skirt or dress pattern and we will send the goods to you by express C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine them at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, such value as you could not buy from your storekeeper at home at less than double the price, a class of goods that is seldom found in country stores at any price, **pronounced by everyone the greatest value ever shown in your section, then pay the express agent Our Special Offer Price and express charges.** The express charges will average 25 to 50 cents; by ordering two or more patterns at once, the charges per pattern will be much reduced.

55 CENTS PER YARD FOR REGULAR $1.00 VALUE. 4, 10, or 14-yard lengths, or any lengths desired, 55 cents per yard.

OUR SPECIAL 55-CENT PRICE is less than cost to manufacture. We took the entire stock from one of the largest recent sales at wholesale auction in this country. The goods were closed out to us on our own cash bid, and our 55-cent price is about one-half the regular price. These goods are 19 inches wide, heavy black Grosgrain Brocade Silk. Comes in a variety of choice patterns, guaranteed absolutely pure, will make a handsome and durable separate waist or skirt, and in an entire costume it certainly would be superb. The silk is made in France by one of the largest French weavers. **The brocade patterns are entirely new for 1901. They are a class of goods that will be found only in the best retail stores, and there at $1.00 to $1.25 a yard.**

ORDER A WAIST, SKIRT OR DRESS PATTERN, have it nicely made up, and you will have such a garment as few, if any, in your neighborhood possess.

UNDERSTAND, YOU TAKE NO RISK IN ORDERING. You send no money, if the goods are not found perfectly satisfactory when received, DON'T PAY A CENT, and the express agent will return them to us at our expense. Order two, four or six patterns at these special prices by getting your friends to order with you, and the express charges for each will be almost nothing. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.

For 10c (if you will say what kind of silk you wish) we will send a big line of Silk Samples.

This illustration, engraved from a photograph, gives you an idea of the appearance of our $2.20 silk waist pattern when made up in a stylish silk waist. Of course, you can make it in any style.

SEND NO MONEY

Just send us your name and address and we will send to any responsible party by return express, charges prepaid, a Fox Adjustable Copy Holder on

TWO WEEKS' FREE TRIAL.

After the trial if you are pleased with it send us the price, **$2.00**, and keep the Copy Holder, but if for any reason you do not wish to keep it, express it back at our expense—no cost to you whatever. **We take all the risk.**

A good copy holder will increase a stenographer's speed so much that its cost will be saved in a week. It increases the speed and the salary of the stenographer. It saves time and makes money for the employer. You lose money every day you do without it.

THE FOX ADJUSTABLE COPY HOLDER has many points of merit not possessed by others. It is the only one made that can be placed at any desired position or angle to suit the eyesight, the light, or other convenience. It will fit any typewriter. It is the best copy holder made. Mention make of your typewriter with your order.

DEALERS WANTED.

FOX TYPEWRITERS. No. 1—76 Characters. No. 2—88 Characters.

LEAST NOISE—SHORTEST DIP—LIGHTEST TOUCH. Interesting Catalogue and Prices on request.

FOX TYPEWRITER CO., 60 N. Front St., Grand Rapids, Mich.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

As long as silver has been used to eat with women have sighed over the drudgery of cleaning it. That has been one of the things in a woman's work that is never done. Anything that has to be done three times a day — rain or shine — is worth doing easily as well as well. But silver cleaning never has been easy — never would have been easy if a bright Yankee had not invented

NO-RUB!

Already it has contributed to make housekeeping light housekeeping in thousands of homes. It is waiting ready to lighten the drudgery of every woman who reads this. It is acknowledged to be in every way the best preparation known for removing the tarnish from silver and restoring to it the brilliant lustre with which it came from the silver-smith.

NO-RUB SILVER POLISH

is a liquid and vastly superior to any powder polish, for it cleans the silver instantaneously with ***no rubbing;*** never scratches or otherwise mars the polished surfaces, nor leaves a black deposit in the engraved parts — and absolutely harmless.

FREE To introduce No-Rub where it is not yet known we will send one full-size bottle to anyone sending us 10 cents to pay mailing expenses.

THE NO-RUB MFG. CO., Winthrop Bldg., Boston, Mass.

☞ See our special offer on page VI of this issue of The Black Cat.

THE C F WYCKOFF CO BOSTON

OUR NEW 1901 FLOWER SEED OFFER!

A Magnificent Collection of FLOWER SEEDS 310 Varieties, FREE!

An Unparalleled Offer by an Old-Established and Reliable Publishing House!

THE LADIES' WORLD is a large, 24-page, 96-column illustrated magazine for ladies and the family circle, with elegant cover printed in colors. It is devoted to Stories, Poems, Ladies' Fancy Work, Home Decoration, Housekeeping, Fashions, Hygiene, Juvenile Reading, Floriculture, etc. To introduce this charming ladies' magazine into 100,000 homes where it is not already taken, we now make the following *colossal offer: Upon receipt of only* **Twenty Cents** *in silver or stamps, we will send* **The Ladies' World** *for* **Six Months,** *and to each subscriber we will also send,* **Free** *and post-paid, a large and magnificent* **Collection of Choice Flower Seeds, 310 Varieties,** *as follows:*

1 Packet **Celosia, Ostrich Feather.** A beautiful plant growing three feet high, and developing large plumes curved and curled like an ostrich feather.

1 Packet **Royal Pansies.** Finest mixture, comprising such famous sorts as *Trimardeau, Five-Blotched Odier, Dagmet's, Parisian Fancy, Rainbow,* etc.

1 Packet **Superb Asters.** Choicest mixture of finest named varieties, including *Victoria, Non Plus Ultra, Comet, Jewel, Branching Crown, Triumph,* etc.

1 Packet **Eckford Sweet Peas.** Fifty new named varieties, including *Golden Gleam, Coquette, Daybreak, Othello, Fashion, Navy Blue, Black Knight,* etc.

1 Packet **Sunset Poppies.** A magnificent assortment, composed exclusively of *double* varieties, including *White Swan, Cardinal, American Flag, Snowdrift, Mikado,* etc.

1 Packet **Cosmos,** mixed, comprising many colors and shades formerly unknown, from pure white to deep crimson. The flowers are large, and borne in great profusion.

1 Packet **Lobb's Nasturtium.** A choice mixture, including *Queen Victoria, Lucifer, Spitfire, Lily Schmidt,* etc. Charming for hanging baskets, old stumps, trellises, etc.

1 Packet **Single Dahlias,** mixed, including the popular *Jules Chretien,* remarkable for great variety and brilliancy of coloring, large size and fine form. Bloom from June to October.

1 Packet **Double China Pinks.** One of the most attractive of hardy garden flowers. Blooms very profusely, in rich variety of colors.

1 Packet **Calendula, Meteor.** A showy hardy annual, forming dwarf, bushy plants, producing large double flowers of a bright yellow, striped orange. Blooms all summer.

And *Three Hundred Other Varieties,* including Fireball Dianthus, Phlox Drummondii, Japanese Morning Glory, Gaillardia, Everlastings, Thunbergia, Candytuft, Chrysanthemums, German Stock, Lilliput Marigold, Salpiglossis, Forget-Me-Not, Verbenas, Mignonette, Cyprus Vine, Digitalis, Petunia, etc.

Remember, twenty cents pays for the Magazine for Six Months, and this entire Magnificent Collection of Choice Flower Seeds (310 varieties), put up by a first-class Seed House and warranted fresh and reliable. We guarantee perfect satisfaction, and will refund your money and make you a present of the seeds if you are not entirely satisfied. *This offer is reliable.* Do not confound it with the catchpenny schemes of unscrupulous persons. We have been established 25 years, and refer to the Commercial Agencies as to responsibility. Six subscriptions and six Seed Collections sent for $1.00. Address

S. H. MOORE & CO., 23 City Hall Place, New York.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR REMOVED FOREVER

with the Tinthoff Electrical Apparatus
Root life of every hair destroyed.

Failure Absolutely Impossible **FREE TRIAL**

Skin left perfectly smooth. Only permanent method. Plain, simple, safe and cheap. Can be used by yourself in home privacy. Operation painless. Complete instructions with each apparatus. Correspondence confidential. Book, full particulars and TRIAL FREE. Enclose stamp. Write to-day.

TINTHOFF ELECTRIC CO., *Inc.*
Dept. D.E., 57 Randolph St., Chicago.

HAIR SWITCH FREE

ON EASY CONDITIONS.

Cut this ad. out and mail to us. Send a small sample of your hair, cut close to the roots. **SEND NO MONEY;** we will make and send you by mail, postpaid, a **FINE HUMAN HAIR SWITCH,** an exact match, made 22 inches long from selected human hair, 2½ ounces, short stem. We will inclose in package with switch sufficient postage to return it to us if not perfectly satisfactory, but if found exactly as represented and most extraordinary value and you wish to keep it, either send us $1.50 by mail within 10 days or TAKE ORDERS FOR 2 SWITCHES AT $1.50 EACH among your friends and send to us without any money, we to send the 3 switches to them direct by mail, to be paid for 10 days after received if perfectly satisfactory, and you can then have the switch we send you free for your trouble.

We give Pianos, Organs, Sewing Machines, Dishes, Furniture, Watches, Bicycles, Cameras and other premiums for taking orders for Our Switches. One lady earned a Piano in fifteen days, one a Sewing Machine in 2 days. Order a Switch at once or write to-day for FREE PREMIUM OFFER. Address,

Ladies' Hair Emporium, Chicago.

Makes Women Beautiful

Marvelous development accomplished by the new and wonderful "Vestro" method of enlarging the Female Bust.

Flat-chested and unattractive women are quickly developed into commanding figures that excite wonderment and admiration.

A new and surprisingly effective home treatment has been discovered that enlarges the female bust at least six inches. Women who are not lacking in this respect will not be particularly interested, but those who by some unfortunate circumstance of health or occupation are deficient in this development will be very much fascinated by the peculiar prominence achieved by the treatment. It is called "Vestro" and is controlled by the well known Aurum Medicine Co.

There is no doubt about the marvelous power of this new treatment to develop the bust to a gratifying extent. Any lady who wishes to know more about Vestro should send her name and address to the Aurum Medicine Co. They will send free, in plain sealed envelope by mail, a new "beauty book" they have just prepared, also photographs from life showing the actual development induced and a great number of testimonials from physicians, chemists and prominent ladies all commending the wonderful and remarkable power of Vestro to enlarge the bust no matter how flat the chest may be. Do not fail to write at once. The beauty book and portraits will delight you. All you need do is to send name and address and a two-cent stamp to pay postage. Address

AURUM MEDICINE CO., Dept. D. A., 55 State St., Chicago.

OPIUM MORPHINE habit cured in 10 to 20 days. 30,000 cases cured. NO PAY TILL CURED. Address DR.

J. L STEPHENS CO. Dept. B. 9 Lebanon, Ohio.

6 PRIZES FREE

1 Solid Gold Shell Gem Set Birthday Ring, warranted. 1 Chain Bracelet and Lock. 1 Isis Lucky Stone Stick Pin. 2 Pieces Silver Plated Ware—Butter Knife, Sugar Shell and Pickle Fork. All 6 above Prizes (and our Watch Offer) mailed at once entirely Free for selling only 15 Ten Cent Packages of Rose Perfume. **Send address to-day** (no money). We mail Perfume to be paid for when sold.

MUTUAL CO., Dept. D-S, 50 W. Larned St., DETROIT, MICH.

TEACHING OVER 280,000 STUDENTS **By Mail**

The International Correspondence Schools, Scranton, Pa., has students in every civilized country. Write for our circular entitled **Salaried Positions for Learners**

Mechanical, Electrical, Steam and Civil Engineering; Architecture; Drawing; Chemistry; Telegraphy; Teaching; Stenography; Book-keeping; English Branches. When writing state subject in which interested.

International Correspondence Schools, Box 1193, Scranton, Pa.
Established 1891. Capital $1,500,000.

HAIR SWITCH 65 CENTS.

WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any hair at from 65c to $3.25, the equal of switches that retail at $2.00 to $8.00.

OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us, inclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair exact, and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.

Our Special Offer Price as follows: 2-oz. switch 20-in. long, long stem, 65c; short stem, 90c; 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, $1.25; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, $1.50; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, $2.25; 3½-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, $3.25; WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK the highest grade on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address,

ROBERTS SPECIALTY CO.,
114 Dearborn St., Chicago.

CANCER CURED

Cancer and Tumor Cured without the aid of knife or plaster, and without pain.

A treatise, testimonials and letter of advice free. Address

C. H. MASON, M.D., Chatham, N.Y.

Why don't YOU drink HIRES Rootbeer?

HIRES Rootbeer is the ideal spring tonic and home beverage. It cleanses and cools the blood, revives and refreshes the whole system—fits you for the summer's heat.

To be had everywhere in carbonated form or in packages. A package makes five gallons—sent by mail for 25 cents. Dealers, write for our big offer this year.

CHARLES E. HIRES COMPANY, Malvern, Pa.

ZAREMA DIAMOND

WANTED—Agents everywhere, either sex; Zarema Diamond; experts puzzled to detect from genuine; liberal commission; catalogue, sample (ring or stud) free on application.

ZAREMA DIAMOND CO.,
113 Adams Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

SEND NO MONEY, cut this advertisement out and send to us and we will send you this OUR HIGH GRADE DROP-HEAD CABINET NEW QUEEN SEWING MACHINE, by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, equal to the highest grade sewing machines advertised by other houses at $30.00 to $50.00, and as good a machine as you can buy from your dealer at home at $30.00 to $40.00, the greatest bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay your railroad agent OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE **$11.25** and freight charges. Give the machine three months' trial in your own home and we will return your $11.25 any day you are not satisfied.

Illustration shows machine closed, to be used as a center table, stand or desk.

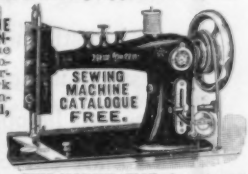
OUR $11.25 NEW QUEEN SEWING MACHINE IS COVERED BY A BINDING 20-YEAR GUARANTEE, is made by one of the best sewing machine makers in America, has every new and up-to-date improvement, high arm, positive four-motion feed, very light running, does any work that can be done on any sewing machine made. It comes in a beautiful solid antique oak, drop head cabinet, as illustrated. **Oak cabinet is beautifully finished, highly polished, elaborately finished throughout.**

AT $11.25 WE FURNISH THIS SEWING MACHINE COMPLETE WITH ALL ACCESSORIES, including 1 quilter, 2 screwdrivers, 6 bobbins, 1 package of needles, 1 cloth guide and screw, 1 oil can filled with oil, and a complete instruction book, which makes everything so plain that **even a child without previous experience can operate the machine at once. FOR 25 CENTS EXTRA,** we furnish, in addition to the regular accessories mentioned, the following **special attachments:** 1 thread cutter, 1 braider, 1 binder, 1 set of plain hemmers, different widths up to ⅛ths of an inch.

SEWING MACHINE DEALERS who will order three or more machines at one time will be supplied with the same machine, under another name, and with our name entirely removed, **but the price will be the same, viz., $11.25,** even in hundred lots. ORDER TODAY. DON'T DELAY. **Such an offer was never known before.**

OUR $98.50 UPRIGHT GRAND PIANO IS A WONDER. Shipped on one year's free trial. Write for free Piano Catalogue. Address your orders plainly to

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.



THIS ILLUSTRATION gives you an idea of the appearance of the HIGH GRADE, HIGH ARM NEW QUEEN SEWING MACHINE which we furnish at $11.25, in the handsome 5-drawer drop head oak cabinet illustrated.

Copper

AS AN INVESTMENT

The progress of industry in America is daily increasing the demand for the great staple, *Copper*. The general requirements of manufacturers, together with demands arising from electrical developments, will continue to absorb Copper very rapidly. In the latter field, Copper has already become an indispensable article. Thus the man who invests in a reliable Copper Stock to-day does not go into a gamble in which his chances of losing are about three to one. He invests in a practical business venture that is as safe and sure as careful conservative management and sound business sense can make it. He invests in a great and ever-growing industry that offers larger profits and quicker returns than any other legitimate business.

In the great stock exchanges of Europe, mining shares have long been recognized as among the most desirable of all investment securities. In this country the people are just commencing to learn of the money-making opportunities that lie open to them along this line,—greater by far than are offered in any of the European stocks.

Buy Beulah

WHAT BEULAH OFFERS

The richest Copper ore in America to-day is taken from the mines of southern Wyoming and across the boundary in Colorado.

The Beulah Copper Company owns about 90 acres in the Battle Lake region, Wyoming. Heavy-producing mines are located here, and Beulah bids fair to become one of the best. Development work has progressed rapidly, and the ore taken out has made a remarkable showing.

The first assay from the office of Henry Carmichael, of Boston, Dec. 18, 1900, showed a total of $55.83 to the ton. The latest assay from the same office, March 6, 1901, showed $242.61 to the ton. These figures are significant.

The men who are back of the company do not guarantee large returns to investors. Their proposition is simply plain, straightforward business. They have put their own money into the company, and ask you to join them in the enterprise, if you care to, on the same basis.

A limited amount of the Treasury Stock of the company is still unsubscribed. This stock was first offered to the public at 25 cents per share. March 25 the price advanced to 50 cents per share. Par value, $1.00, full paid and non-assessable. The price will be again advanced in the near future.

For prospectus and further information address

THE BEULAH COPPER CO.

48 Congress St., Boston, Mass.

49-CENT SILK OFFER

For 49 Cents per Yard we offer this Regular $1.00, Fine All Silk Taffeta.

49 CENTS PER YARD is less than cost to manufacture and much lower than dealers can buy in any quantity. A large New York silk house was compelled to raise money and asked us for a spot cash offer on **3,500 pieces of this fine silk.** We made them a ridiculously low offer, but to our surprise it was promptly accepted to get immediate money. To give our customers, to give everyone the advantage of our purchase, we add but one small percentage of profit **and make the heretofore unheard of offer of 49 cents for REGULAR $1.00 GOODS.**

SEND NO MONEY. Cut this ad. out and send to us, **MENTION No. 99L,** state color and number of yards wanted and we will send the silk to you by express C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest express office, **and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and the greatest value you have ever seen or heard of, if you are convinced we are saving you one-half in price, then pay the express agent our Special Price of 49c PER YARD** and express charges. The express charges on four to ten yards will amount to 25 to 50 cents; on twelve to twenty yards, 40 to 60 cents. By ordering several waist or dress patterns **you reduce the express charges to next to nothing.** We therefore advise you to get your friends to join with you and make up an order for several waist or dress patterns to be sent together. **THIS IS A GENUINE GUINET ET CIE, FINE ALL PURE SILK RUSTLING TAFFETA. One of the very best silks made.** Positively the very latest style and more in demand than any other silk manufactured today. Good weight, 20 inches wide, makes up very stylish in a handsome silk waist or silk suit, and is especially appropriate as a foundation to be covered with laces that are so popular this season. These silks come in a big variety of beautiful colors. Every evening shade and opera colors. Also beautiful shades of green, brown, cardinal, blue, heliotrope, yellow, orange, violet, tan, white and cerise. 4 yards makes an ample waist pattern; 14 yards a dress pattern; 10 yards a good skirt pattern. **Understand, you take no risk. Do not send a cent,** and if the goods are not perfectly satisfactory when received, **the agent returns it at our expense.** Address your orders to

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

Write for FREE DRY GOODS CATALOGUE.

This illustration gives you an idea of our 49-cent silk made up in a waist. Of course, you can make it up any style.

MORPHINE

FREE TRIAL TREATMENT Most remarkable home remedy ever discovered for **OPIUM, MORPHINE, LAUDANUM** and other drug habits. Harmless; painless. Contains **Great Vital Principle** heretofore unknown. Confidential correspondence invited.

ST. JAMES SOCIETY, 1181 Broadway, New York.

Cure for the Blues!

Prize Story Gripsack

Through the Forbidden Gates. Carroll Carrington.	$200	Prize
The Quarantined Bridegroom. Edna Kenton.	$150	"
The Gaikwar's Sword. H. S. Canfield	$300	"
The Dancing Goddess. W. G. Kelly.	$100	"
The Train Hunt at Loldos. E. C. Preston.	$200	"
The Diamond Drill and Mary. H. J. W. Dam.	$150	"
A Sister to the Borgias. Joanna E. Wood.	$125	"
The Levitation of Jacob. Clifford Howard.	$200	"
"Missing." Mary Boardman Sheldon.	$100	"
The French Doll's Dowry. Florence G. Tuttle.	$100	"
The Music of Money. Newton Newkirk.	$100	"
The White Brick. F. E. Chase.	$1,000	"
Dr. Goldman. Don Mark Lemon.	$100	"
The Vase of the Mikado. A. E. B. Lane.	$150	"
Hans Kremler's Anniversary. Elisabeth F. Dye.	$300	"
When Time Turned. Ethel Watts Mumford.	$125	"
Margaret Kelly's Wake. S. C. Brean.	$500	"

For 25 cents we will mail the eight numbers of THE BLACK CAT containing the 17 capital prize stories here named, together with 23 others that helped win the title, "The story-telling hit of the age." Money cannot buy more fascinating stories.

The Shortstory Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE

CURES

Female Troubles, Stooping Posture, Inflammations, Internal Pains, Tired Feeling, Backache, Weak Lungs, Nervousness.

TRIAL FREE.

It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, wholly external, adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset.

We have over 15,000 letters like this:

Chandler, Okla., July 27, 1899.

Your Brace did all you said about it and more for me. It has saved me a big doctor's bill and brought me good health, which I had not had before in 25 years. My troubles were dropsy, headache, lung disease, stomach and other ills to which women are subject. MRS. L. B. DICKINSON.

Write today for particulars and illustrated book mailed free in plain sealed envelope. Address The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 50, Salina, Kansas.

Every woman should have this Brace.

I Print My Own Cards Circulars, Books, Newspaper

Card Press $5
Larger, $18
Money saver, maker. Type setting easy, rules sent. Write for catalog, presses, type, paper, &c. to factory.
THE PRESS CO., Meriden, Conn.

For Sick and Well Folks

Robinson's Bath Cabinet

CURES DISEASE WITHOUT MEDICINE.

A positive cure for Rheumatism, Blood, Liver, Kidney and Skin diseases. No disease can resist the power of heat.

A Turkish Bath at Home for 2 Cents

THIRTY DAYS' TRIAL FREE.

If not found as represented money refunded.

$2.00 BOOK FREE TO PATRONS, contains full instructions for curing disease, written by prominent physicians.

Please Send for Our Book and Special Offer. Agents Wanted.

$75 to $200 monthly can be made. Write us at once for special Agent's 1901 proposition. Exclusive rights given. Do not delay.

ROBINSON THERMAL BATH CO.
680 Jefferson St., Toledo, Ohio.

Quality and Purity—Made in Cleanliness

B.T.Babbitt's Best Soap

No filling, no adulterations—just all soap—the extreme of real soap economy

Pabst beer is always pure

Buckeye Folding Bath Cabinet

Price $5

For the Application of Heat and Steam, is a sure road to health and cleanliness. It is a small, rubber-lined, air-tight room in which the bather sits on a chair, while the heater supplied with each cabinet, gradually increases the temperature, which opens the pores all over the body and sweats out all impurities. **The Buckeye** has exclusive features of its own which are absolutely essential in a bath cabinet. A detailed description and a fund of valuable information not contained in this advertisement will be sent **FREE** upon request, or still better, send $5.00 at once for a Cabinet, **use it 30 days and return it and get your money back** if not just as represented. Free formulas for all kinds of medicated baths with each Cabinet. Face Steaming attachment $1.00 extra. For cleanliness it is better than any water bath and can be used in any room, folded and put away when the bath is finished.

A REWARD OF $50.00 for any case of RHEUMATISM or FEMALE TROUBLE that cannot be cured by the use of the **Buckeye Cabinet.** Recommended in the worst cases of Neuralgia, LaGrippe, Tonsilitis, Asthma, Catarrh, and all Blood, Skin, Liver and Kidney diseases. Reduces superfluous flesh without dieting or dosing the stomach.

LOCAL AND TRAVELLING AGENTS WANTED in all parts of the country. Those at work are making from **$25** to **$50 a Week.** We give exclusive territory. Practically no competition. Write **To-Day** for Special 1901 Agent's Proposition. D.W. Salisbury made $7.50 the first day. M. E. Westbrook made $33.00 in one week. Mrs. J. B. Palmer made $137.00 one month. You can do the same if you try.

MOLLENKOPP & McCREERY, 938 Dorr Street, TOLEDO, OHIO.

MORPHINE

PAINLESS and PERMANENT **Home Cure**

A Trial Treatment Free

Sent to anyone addicted to the use of Morphine, Opium, Laudanum, Cocaine or other drug habit. Contains **VITAL PRINCIPLE** heretofore unknown and lacking in all others. We **Restore the Nervous and Physical Systems** and thus **Remove the Cause.** Confidential correspondence invited from all, especially physicians having refractory cases.

St. Paul Association, 46 B, Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill.

TWO RINGS FREE

Send name and address **no money,** and we will mail you 12 boxes of Comfort Cough Tablets. Will cure a cough in one day. Sell them for **10** cents a box. Send us the **$1.20** and we will mail you these two beautiful SOLID GOLD laid Rings. Will wear a lifetime. No money required till tablets are sold. We take back all not sold.

COMFORT MEDICINE CO., Providence, R. I.

FREE TRUSS

I have a truss that s cured hundreds of ruptures. It's safe, sure, and easy as an old stocking. No elastic or steel band around the body or between limbs. Holds any rupture. To introduce it every sufferer who answers this ad at once can have one free. It wont cost a cent. ALEX. SPEIRS, 212 Main St., Westbrook, Me.

SEND NO MONEY

cut this ad. out and send to us, state whether you wish Gent's or Ladies' Bicycle. (LADIES' WHEELS 50 Cents EXTRA), color and gear wanted and we will send you this **HIGHEST GRADE 1901 MODEL EDGEMERE BICYCLE** by express C.O.D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, **the equal of bicycles that sell everywhere at $20.00 to $40.00 the MOST WONDERFUL BARGAIN YOU EVER SAW OR HEARD OF,** then pay the express agent **OUR SPECIAL PRICE, $11.75** (or $12.25 for ladies), and express charges, express charges are only 50 to 75 cents for 500 miles.

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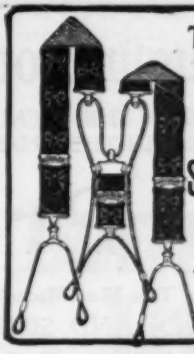

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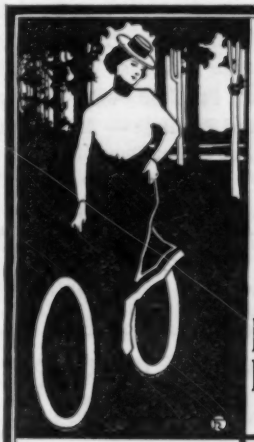

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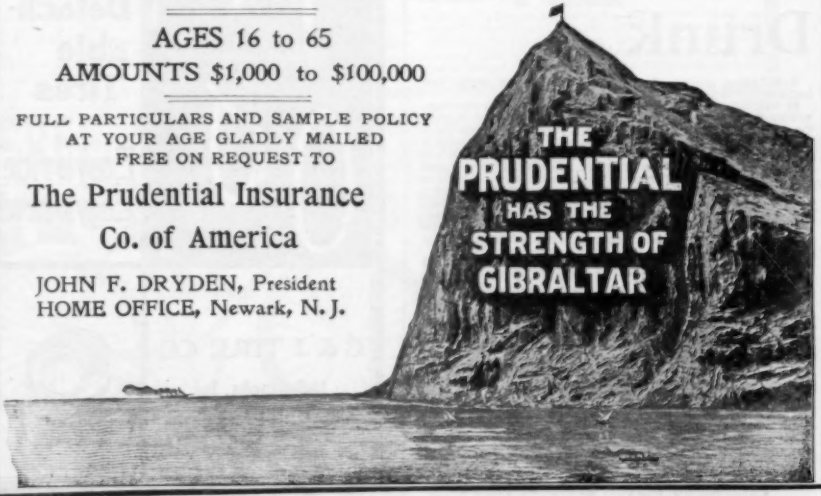

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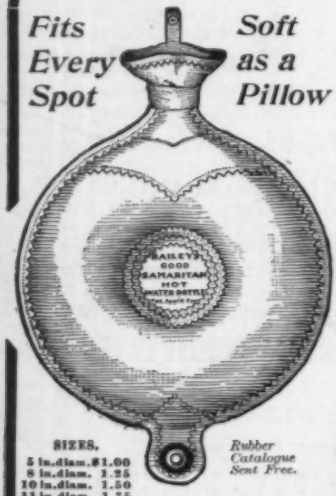

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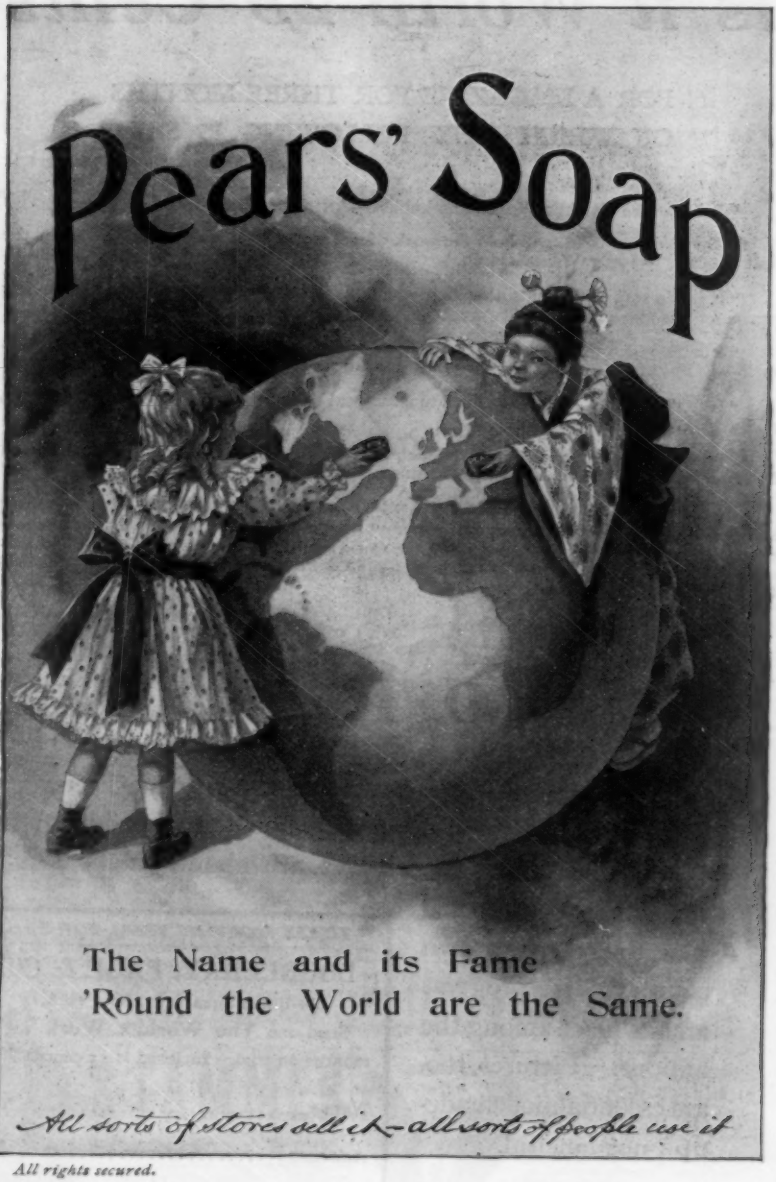

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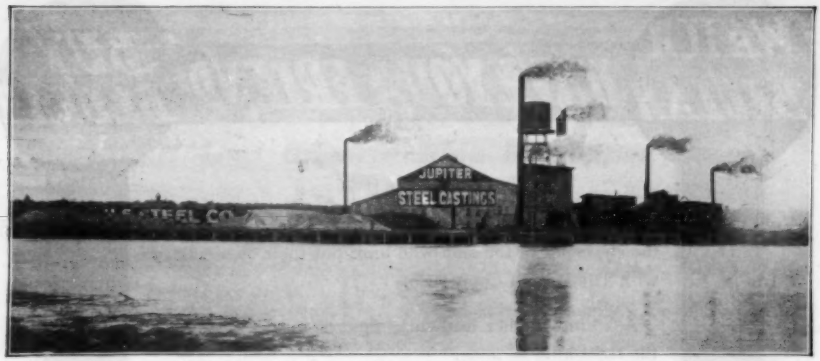

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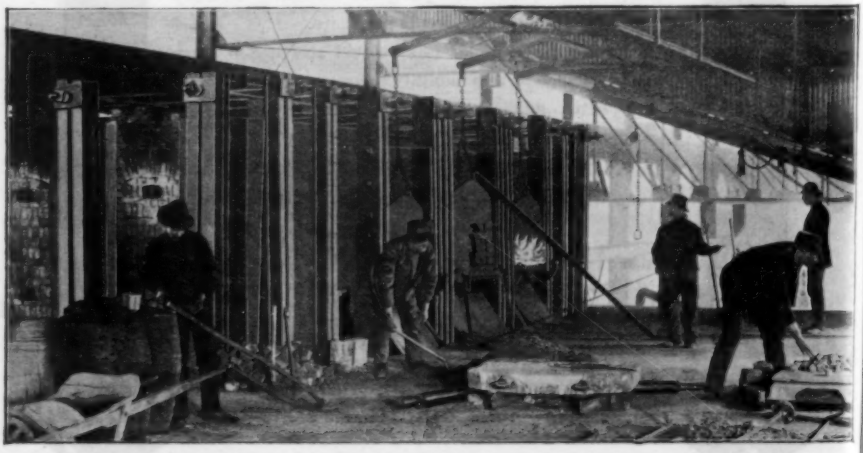

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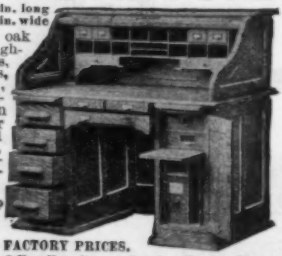

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CURES

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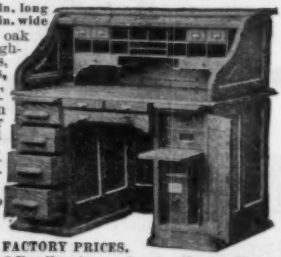

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Illustration shows machine closed, to be used as a center table, stand or desk.

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OUR $11.25 NEW QUEEN SEWING MACHINE IS COVERED BY A BINDING 20-YEAR GUARANTEE, is made by one of the best sewing machine makers in America, has every new and up-to-date improvement, high arm, positive four-motion feed, very light running, does any work that can be done on any sewing machine made. It comes in a beautiful solid antique oak, drop head cabinet, as illustrated. **Oak cabinet is beautifully finished, highly polished, elaborately finished throughout.**

AT $11.25 WE FURNISH THIS SEWING MACHINE COMPLETE WITH ALL ACCESSORIES, including 1 quilter, 2 screwdrivers, 6 bobbins, 1 package of needles, 1 cloth guide and screw, 1 oil can filled with oil, and a complete instruction book, which makes everything so plain that **even a child without previous experience can operate the machine at once. FOR 25 CENTS EXTRA,** we furnish, in addition to the regular accessories mentioned, the following **special attachments:** 1 thread cutter, 1 braider, 1 binder, 1 set of plain hemmers, different widths up to ⅝ths of an inch.

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Save your teeth
Guard your health
Protect your mouth
—with the Brush
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WRIGHT'S
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For the teeth, mouth, gums and breath.

A creamy, delicious dentifrice (in collapsible tubes). Contains properties of the famous Wright's Antiseptic Myrrh Tooth Soap. Comes also in Powder form or as a Wash. Purity guaranteed. Free from grit or acid. Endorsed by eminent authorities. U. S. Government buy it for Army use. Trial sample and booklet free for 2c. stamp. At druggists 25c., or

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THIRTY DAYS' TRIAL FREE.

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PRICKLY HEAT, CHAFING, and SUNBURN, and all afflictions of the skin.

"A little higher in price, perhaps, than worthless substitutes, but a reason for it." Removes all odor of perspiration. Delightful after Shaving.

Sold everywhere, or mailed on receipt of 25c. Get Mennen's (the original.) *Sample free.* GERHARD MENNEN CO., Newark, N. J.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR REMOVED FOREVER

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Root life of every hair destroyed.

Failure Absolutely Impossible **FREE TRIAL**

Skin left perfectly smooth. Only permanent method. Plain, simple, safe and cheap. Can be used by yourself in home privacy. Operation painless. Complete instructions with each apparatus. Correspondence confidential. Book, full particulars and TRIAL FREE. Enclose stamp. Write to-day.

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Are Curable Diseases

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Uric Acid or Gout Poison in Causation of Disease.

BUFFALO LITHIA WATER

The Remedy and Preventive.

Alexander Haig, M. A., M. D., Oxon., F. R. C. P., *London*, in his work on "URIC ACID in CAUSATION of DISEASE," gives **Excess of Uric Acid in the Blood as the cause of Gout, Rheumatism, Calculi of the Kidney and Bladder, Albuminuria, Bright's Disease, Heart Affections, Nervous Depression, Nervous Headache, Neuralgia, Epilepsy, Insanity, Asthma, Suicide, Bronchitis, Dyspepsia, Eczema, etc., etc.**

HUNTER McGUIRE, M. D., LL. D., President and Professor of Clinical Surgery, University College of Medicine, Richmond, Va., says: "**BUFFALO LITHIA WATER,** as an ALKALINE DIURETIC, **is invaluable.** In URIC ACID, GRAVEL, and indeed, in **diseases generally dependent upon a Uric Acid Diathesis, it is a remedy of extraordinary potency.** I have prescribed it in cases of **Rheumatic Gout, which had resisted the ordinary remedies, with wonderfully good results. I have used it also in my own case, being a great sufferer from this malady, and have derived more benefit from it than from any other remedy.**"

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"In more than twenty years of practice I have used **Lithia** as an **ANTI-URIC ACID** agent many times, and have tried it in a **great variety of forms, both in the NATURAL WATERS and in TABLETS.** As the result of this experience I have no hesitation in stating that for **prompt results I have found nothing to compare with BUFFALO LITHIA WATER in preventing uric acid deposits in the body.** My experience with it as a solvent of old existing deposits (calculi) has been relatively limited, and I hesitate to compare it here with other forms to their disadvantage, **but for the first class of conditions above set forth I feel that BUFFALO LITHIA WATER** STANDS ALONE."

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Sir Thomas Lipton says, "For very large and permanent returns nothing equals a well managed tropical plantation."

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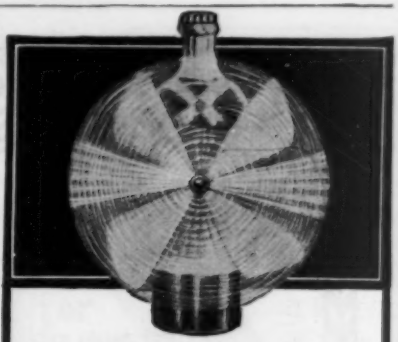

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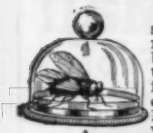
Transmission of Infection by FLIES



1

2

3

4

The Medical Age, June 10, 1900, says: "An interesting experiment illustrative of the possibility of transmission of infection through the agency of flies is communicated by Dr. F. Smith of Sierra Leone (Public Health, Dec., 1899). Four Petri dishes were prepared, three with sterile serum, and one with a culture of diphtheria on serum. A common house fly was made to walk first over a sterile dish (No. 1), then over the one on which was the growth of diphtheria (No. 2), and next over the other two sterile ones (Nos. 3 and 4). Nos. 1, 3 and 4 were then placed in an incubator. On the following day No. 1 showed only a few cocci, but Nos. 3 and 4 showed colonies of diphtheria bacilli in the tracks of the fly. In other words:

1st. Four dishes of gelatinous food were so prepared that they contained not even the smallest germ of any kind.

2d. Some diphtheria germs were planted in Dish No. 2.

3d. A fly was made to walk over Dish No. 1, so that its feet were perfectly cleaned, everything adhering to them picked off by the gelatinous surface remaining upon the same.

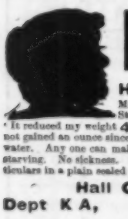
4th. Then the fly was made to walk over Dish No. 2, containing the diphtheria germs.

5th. To learn if any diphtheria germs had fastened themselves to the fly's feet it was made to walk over the pure sterilized dishes Nos. 3 and 4.

6th. Dishes Nos. 3 and 4 were placed in an incubator to develop any germs which might have been deposited by the fly's feet.

7th. The next day colonies of bacilli had developed in the tracks of the fly, thus proving conclusively that flies carry contagion.

Tanglefoot Sticky Fly Paper will prevent flies from infecting you. It catches the germ as well as the fly, and coats them both over with a varnish from which they can never escape.



FAT

How to reduce it

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Hall Chemical Co.,
Dept K A, ST. LOUIS, MO.

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habits cured by **OPACURA** a painless home treatment endorsed and used by leading Physicians. **A TRIAL TREATMENT,** sufficent to convince you it **WILL CURE,** sent **FREE,** with book of testimonials (sealed).

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Says Professor Turner, President of Fairmount College, Sulphur, Ky.:—"After being bald for thirty years, I began using the remedy in 1895, and in a few weeks thereafter my entire scalp was covered with a thick downy growth of new hair. The whole of my hair was gone except a fringe around the hat line. In six weeks the bald spot was entirely covered. I had been bald for thirty years, and when hair can be made to grow on such a head as mine no bald headed person need fear the results."

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The remedy has cured thousands and no one need fear that it is harmful. We do not ask you to take our word for it or any one else's. Send for the free trial and learn for yourself just what this wonderful remedy will actually do for you.

The remedy also cures itching and dandruff, sure signs of approaching baldness, and keeps the scalp healthy and vigorous. It also restores gray hair to natural color and produces thick and lustrous eyebrows and eyelashes. By sending your name and address to the Altenheim Medical Dispensary, 3378 Butterfield Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, enclosing a 2-cent stamp to cover postage, they will mail you prepaid a free trial package of their remarkable remedy.

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Name and address written on a blank enclosed in tube identifies you in case of accident or if the keys are lost. Waterproof. Heavily nickel plated. 12 cts. by mail. Live agents wanted. Special price $5.00 per hundred. Wilber Mfg. Co., Dept. C. 104 Water St., Boston.

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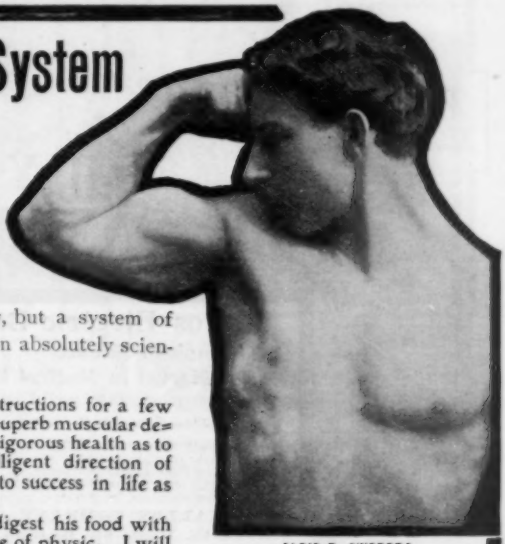

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Kansas City, Mo., December 22, 1899.

Mr. Alois P. Swoboda, Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Mr. Swoboda: — Although it is less than two months since I first commenced work at your system of physiological exercise I am most thoroughly convinced that your system is a decided success. A comparative statement of my measurements will show you what I have accomplished in the short period of less than two months.

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	At beginning.	In 60 days.
Chest normal	33	38½
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Waist	29	29
Neck	13¾	14
Biceps	13⅝	13¾
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Weight	137	150
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In addition to this largely increased muscular development my general health is decidedly improved. Thanking you for what you have done for me and with best wishes for your continued success, I am

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By this condensed system more exercise and benefit can be obtained in ten minutes than by any other in two hours, and it is the only one which does not overtax the heart. It is the only natural, easy and speedy method for obtaining perfect health, physical development and elasticity of mind and body.

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It will take all of these you have to achieve success, without any to waste on liquor. How many men would be making twice as much money, and could look to a bright future but for the drink curse? It reduces a man's capabilities about 50 per cent. It destroys the confidence of his employer and his friends; affects his credit and places his future in the realm of uncertainty. And for what does he sacrifice this? A habit that destroys health, nerves and decency of appearance; causes bursting headaches, swollen eyes, indigestion, sleepless nights, and many other complications too numerous to mention, besides shame and remorse; often disgrace and suicide.

Hundreds of drink-cursed men have been restored to reason, health, and prosperity by the Bartlett Cure. It is not an injection treatment, but a home cure, taken without the knowledge of your friends or even your family. It positively leaves no injurious or harmful effects; it strengthens the system, improves the digestion and makes new men of drunkards. It does not interfere with daily work, and is taken without being noticed.

All correspondence free and confidential. Our cloth-bound 96-page book on the cause, effect and cure of alcoholism mailed in plain envelopes free.

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The G & J Detachable Tire

Simplicity Itself

Is not more simple than G & J TIRES. Herein lies their superiority. Easy to ride, readily detachable, durable and easiest of all to mend—a little patch and some fingers mend them anywhere. Catalogue 1901 sent on request.

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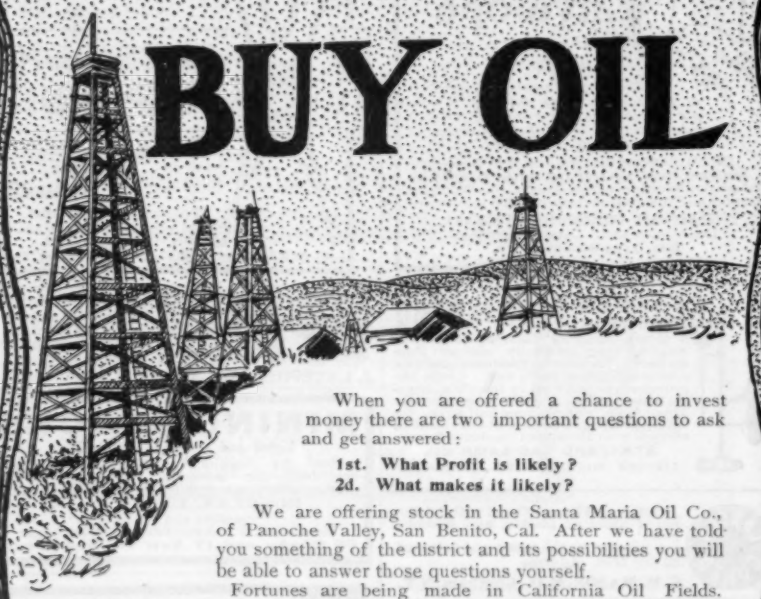

When you are offered a chance to invest money there are two important questions to ask and get answered:

1st. What Profit is likely?
2d. What makes it likely?

We are offering stock in the Santa Maria Oil Co., of Panoche Valley, San Benito, Cal. After we have told you something of the district and its possibilities you will be able to answer those questions yourself.

Fortunes are being made in California Oil Fields. Stocks that started at 10 cts. per share have advanced to $2.00 and $3.00. Stocks that started at $5.00 have advanced to $1,000 per share. Representatives of the Standard Oil Co. have examined the country and have bought several large claims which they are rapidly opening up. Some of these claims are located in the immediate vicinity of the properties of the Santa Maria Oil Co.

According to well-known Oil Experts (Prof. Weld, H. M. Ogden, and others) the Panoche Valley District comprises some of the most valuable Oil land in America. The output is phenomenal and of the finest quality of paraffine oil yet obtained in California.

Many of the shafts have struck oil at from 30 to 40 feet below the surface. The shaft on the Santa Maria property has struck oil at 40 feet.

For the purpose of completing this shaft number 1, and of immediately opening up shafts number 2 and number 3, the directors have offered for a short time a limited amount of treasury stock at 25 cts. per share, par value $1.00, full paid and non-assessable. ***The Company offers furthermore, to buy back all stock of this issue at 30 cts. per share after four months.*** The Santa Maria Oil Co. in making this offer are sure of their ground. That they have a valuable property is evident. A wise investor will not neglect this opportunity to place his money in so safe and profitable an enterprise.

On blocks of 400 shares we will accept $50.00 down and the balance in two monthly payments of $25.00 each.

For prospectus and further particulars address

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$2,000,000 Insures Your Investment—The Astors' Way of Making Money Made Possible to Small Investors—$10 Secures $400 Lot which is Guaranteed to be Worth $500 Before One Year from Date of Purchase—We Take all Risk—Read Every Word.

THE largest, most reliable, most successful Real Estate Company in the world, Wood, Harmon & Co., of New York City, are so positive that the values of their lots will increase 25 per cent. during the year 1901, that they will guarantee this increase to any investor—in case they cannot show it, they will agree to return all money paid them with 6 per cent. interest. We have one of the grandest opportunities of a life-time for the small investor to make money—we give as good security as the strongest savings bank, and instead of the 4 per cent. interest on deposits we can guarantee over 25 per cent. We thoroughly believe the lot which we now sell for $400 will in 10 years bring $4,000, in 20 years from $20,000 upwards. If you will carefully study this communication you will see our reasons.

The Astors and our wealthiest families have made their money from the increase in value of real estate. You can prove this point if you will take the pains to look it up. New York City property has increased in value more than that of any other place because of its enormous growth in population, and this growth of values and population is still going on. Since the consolidation of New York and Brooklyn, the increased facilities of rapid transit by bridge, trolley and elevated, the immense tide of increased population has turned Brooklynward. The attention of the public has been called to the great advantages of Brooklyn because it is only in that section that New York can grow—please note that point, as it is the keynote to the situation. The influx of people into Brooklyn is so great as to severely tax Brooklyn Bridge—as a result new bridges are being built (one of which is nearly completed) and tunnels are being dug beneath the East River. Not only is Brooklyn Borough the only section in which New York can grow, but property in old New York City, the same distance from City Hall, would cost 20 to 100 times the money—note that point carefully, it is absolutely true.

Listen to Our Story. It is our business to study conditions existing or possible in the various cities of the United States, and we have aided in the development of 25 different cities. After 12 years' careful study in New York without purchasing, in 1898 we saw the trend of affairs, and before the consolidation of New York and Brooklyn we bought over 1,100 acres of the choicest land in Brooklyn, and which is now in the heart of that Borough. This land is only 3 1-2 miles from Brooklyn Bridge and is only 35 minutes from New York City Hall. We have over $2,000,000 invested in this land, and are making it one of the most beautiful spots in New York. The growth of the city, together with our improvements, have increased the value of the property over 25 per cent. since a year ago, and we feel so sure that the increase will be at least the same, that we think there is no risk in guaranteeing it.

Listen to Our Proposition. Our property is improved in exact accordance with City Specifications. Streets 60, 80 and 100 feet wide, built to City grade, bordered on each side by 5 feet granolithic cementine sidewalks, flower beds and shrubbery, city water, gas, etc., all at our expense. For $10 down and $6 per month until paid for we sell you a regular New York City lot, subject to the following guarantees from us:—

If at the expiration of the year 1901 this lot is not worth $500.00, based on the price at which our corps of salesmen will then be selling similar lots, we will refund all of the money you have paid us with 6 per cent. interest additional.

If you should die at any time before payments have been completed, we will give to your heirs a deed to the lot without further cost.

If you should get out of employment or be sick you will not forfeit the land.

Titles are guaranteed to us by the Title Guarantee & Trust Co. of New York.

Our Guaranteed Increase. Our guarantee of 25 per cent. increase in one year in the value of lots is a simple one and should not be misunderstood or misconstrued. It means that the regular prices publicly marked on our property (every unsold lot being plainly tagged and priced) and at which our large corps of salesmen will be then selling these lots, will be 25 per cent. in excess of the prices at which we now offer them.

It **does not mean** that we can or will assume the responsibility of selling customers' lots except incidental to our business of development, or that we will take them off their hands; this obviously would be impossible in the great work of development we are undertaking. This is intended as a straight business agreement of an honest increase in value and that only.

N. B. Our non-forfeiture agreement prevents the loss of your lot from misfortune.

Note Our References. The Commercial Agencies, 20 National Banks, and 30,000 customers all over the United States, and especially the one at the bottom of this page; this is only one of a thousand.

You will note three distinct points of advantage in this proposition. First—it is a Life Insurance for your family. Second—it enables you to pay in small sums as you would in your savings bank, and cannot cramp you; and, Third—it enables you to participate in the great growth of values in New York real estate which are due to natural conditions; and furthermore, the three advantages are absolutely without risk.

FREE TRIP TO NEW YORK. As a further guarantee of good faith, we agree with all persons living East of Chicago to pay you in cash the cost of your railroad fare to New York and return if you visit our property and find one word of this advertisement a misrepresentation, or **in case you buy** to credit cost of the trip to you on your purchase; to those living farther away than Chicago we will pay that proportion equal to cost of fare t Chicago and return. We would advise you, if you are satisfied, to send first payment, $10, in cash at our risk immediately, and we will select the very best lot for you. Or, if you desire further particulars, to write immediately for maps, details and information. It will cost you nothing to find out and thoroughly satisfy yourself—we solicit closest investigation. References by hundreds—our reputation is national.

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"THE NASSAU NATIONAL BANK OF BROOKLYN."

"California King"

Will Make You Rich

Each one of the successful, widely known men of affairs whose name appears below as a director, agrees with us in the above alluring, but positively true statement, and we gladly refer you to them as also to the eminent mining engineers named, and **Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Bank, New York and San Francisco; Knickerbocker Trust Co., New York; The Farmers' & Merchants' Bank, Los Angeles, Calif.; First National Bank, Denver, Colo.; Bank of Yuma, Yuma, Ariz.**

A CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY WITHOUT RISK

is what all have yearned for and is what is here offered.

Not a Promise, or a Prospect, or a Speculation, but an Established Profit-Paying Reality.

California King Gold Mines Co.

Capital, 1,000,000 Shares, Par Value, $5 each. Full Paid, Non-Assessable.

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1. **The California King Gold Mines Company** owns 23 claims in Picacho Basin, four miles from the Colorado River, in California, not 20 miles by direct road from Yuma, Ariz.
2. Development work has been in progress for the last six years, and more than 10,000 feet of shafts, drifts, levels and cuts have been completed and paid for by the owners.
3. More than **Fifteen Million Tons** of ore are now ready for the mill, all of which will be mined by open cuts at a nominal cost.
4. A contract has been entered into for the erection this year of a mill and cyanide plant capable of handling **1,000 Tons of Ore Daily.** The directors guarantee that this plant will be placed in operation, regardless of the amount of treasury stock subscribed.
5. A contract has also been entered into for 5½ miles of railroad, including sidings, from the mill site on the Colorado River to the mines, with full equipment of cars and engines.
6. The net profit after commencing operations will exceed $60,000 a month, and probably reach $100,000 a month, within a year. The ore in sight will supply such a plant over 40 years.
7. There is no promotion stock or promotion money. No salaries to officers. Every dollar realized from the sale of stock goes into the treasury to pay for the plant. Not a share of stock has been offered for sale before.
8. J. Ralston Bell, London; Wm. A. Farish, Denver; Emerson Gee, Denver; P. C. DuBois, Berkeley, Cal.; J. L. Sheperd, all eminent mining engineers and recognized authorities in the mining world unite in recommending this property, and their detailed reports may be had of us for such full examination as we invite.
9. The Company offers 200,000 shares Treasury Stock at $3.00 per share. Application will be made to list stock on the Boston Stock Exchange.

Prospectus and any information furnished and subscriptions received by

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SHARES REPRESENTING the LAND are offered to the public at the par value of $150 each (or one-half acre of fully developed and full-bearing land), payable $2.50 per month for forty months, and $5 per month for ten months.

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The Ubero Plantation Co. owns 3,000 acres of the richest, most productive land in the world, situated on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, a participating interest in which is now offered to the public. There are being planted 400,000 Rubber trees, 1,000,000 Coffee trees, and 1,000,000 Pineapple plants, which, when brought to full maturity, will produce a profit of over 100 per cent. These are not our estimates; they are the actual results obtained by our own and other plantations, and of investigations by ministers, consuls and representatives of this and other nations. Absolute, incontrovertible proofs are at hand, and may be obtained from us by any person interested in a highly remunerative investment.

Dividends commence the first year and increase each year. We have already declared and paid dividends of 10% the first year and 15% the second year in the Ubero Plantation Co. of Indianapolis, which owns a similar and contiguous tract of land to the one we are now offering in Boston, and which was also developed by us.

Space forbids a fuller description. Complete details on application. The most rigid investigation is courted. Address

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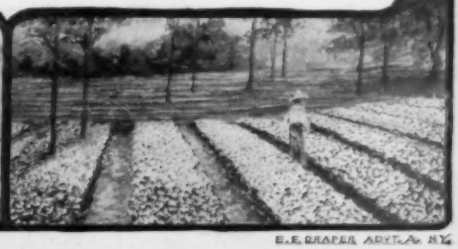

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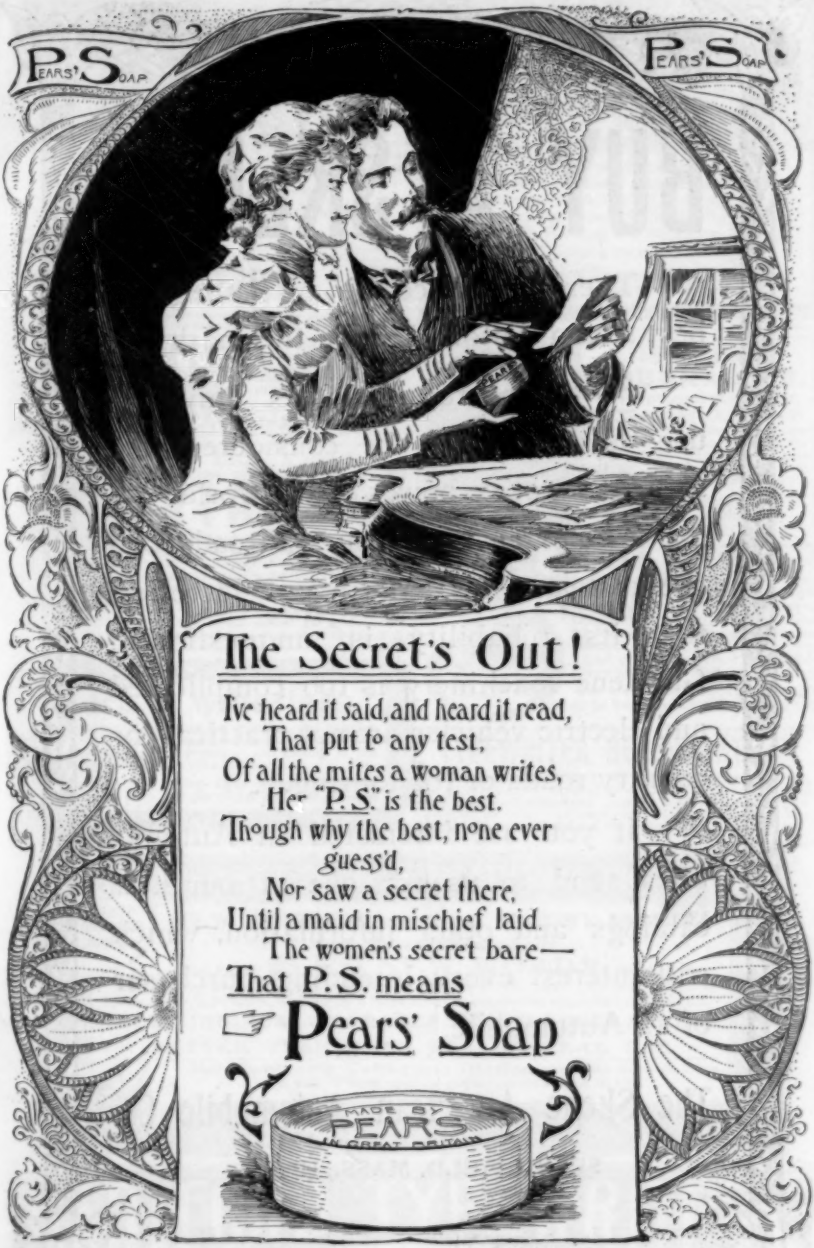
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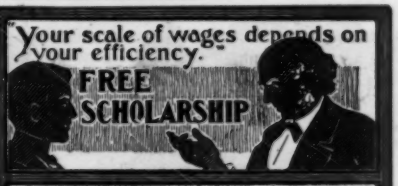

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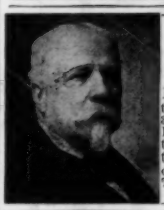

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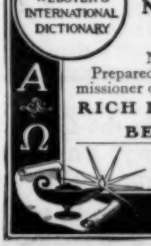

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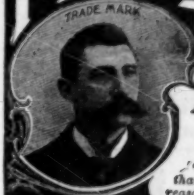

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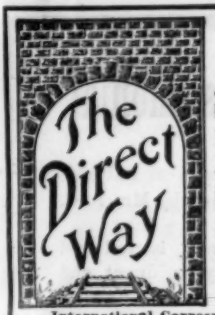

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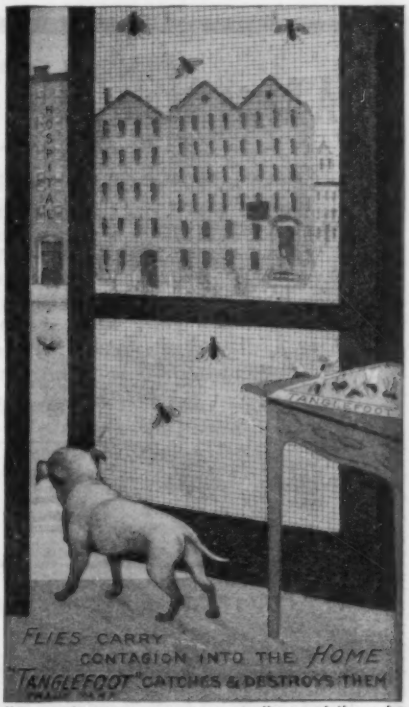

"Certain insects perpetuate or actually spread disease by acting as carriers, being the passive factors in the storage and transportation of certain infections, of which typhoid and probably diphtheria may be taken as disease types, and flies, bedbugs, fleas and roaches as the insects commonly at fault."—*Extract from an address delivered by W. M. L. Coplin, M. D., professor of Bacteriology, before the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, May, 1899. See Philadelphia Medical Journal, June, p. 1307.*

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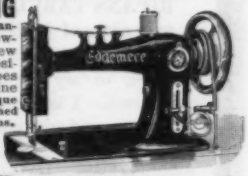

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The home of Mrs. S. C. Warner is situated about four and three-fourths miles north of the city of Burlington, Vermont. It is the second house after crossing Heineberg Bridge, and about three-fourths of a mile beyond the bridge.

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A Remarkable Patent Medicine Testimonial.

(*Continued.*)

RIPANS TABULES. Before I began taking them I could eat nothing but the very plainest food — a little bread and butter and tea being my principal diet for a long time. Especially was this true at night, and when I ate of something at all rich I quickly suffered in consequence. Now this is all changed. If I desire to eat anything extra for supper — cake, pie or other delicacies — I simply take a TABULE at meal time and before I retire. I feel perfectly safe in taking them and have never been troubled in the least.

"Then at dinner I eat almost anything with impunity. Last summer I wanted a strawberry shortcake. For years I could not eat a piece of shortcake. You know, to be good it should be rich, and I am exceedingly fond of it made so. However, I always suffered much if I dared touch any. Well, as I was saying, last summer I wanted some and thought I would chance it, knowing of what benefit the TABULES had been to me. I ate some, and found that it agreed with me perfectly.

"Of course I take the TABULES regularly and just as directed on the box, at every meal and before going to bed. I don't know how many boxes I have taken — several hundred at least, and I would not be without them for anything. A year or so ago I did stop taking them for a time, but concluded to begin again, they were of so much benefit. I like the popular five-cent boxes, with ten in a box, the best.

"Some of the neighbors have laughed at me for having so much faith in the TABULES, saying that I had more faith in them than I had in God; but of course this is not so. I have always been subject to bad sick headaches until I began taking the TABULES, and you don't know what a relief it is to be entirely free from these. It is truly wonderful the change it has made in me. My friends tell me I look and act twenty-five years younger. I have been a widow nineteen years and have had five chlidren. They have all been helped by taking RIPANS TABULES, and I can't say too much in praise of the remedy. Mrs. S. C. WARNER."

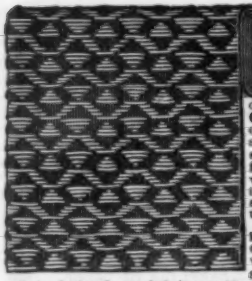
Dr. W. E. Lund, a leading physician of Burlington, Vt., in an interview said:

"I have recommended RIPANS TABULES to my patients on many occasions as an excellent remedy for stomach troubles. I am a busy man, and am frequently stopped on the street by patients who suffer from dyspepsia and indigestion and desire me to treat them. Instead of stopping to write a prescription I simply say: 'Take RIPANS TABULES.' They do so and are relieved."

"Did you recommend the TABULES to Mrs. S. C. Warner?"

"I believe I did, although I have recommended them so often that I don't remember. Mrs. Warner is my patient. I consider the TABULES a simple and effective medicine for all stomach troubles."

There is scarcely any condition of ill-health that is not benefited by the occasional use of a R-I-P-A-N-S Tabule, and the price, ten for 5 cents, does not bar them from any home or justify any one in enduring ills that are easily cured. A family bottle containing 150 tabules is sold for 60 cents. For children the chocolate-coated sort, 72 for 25 cents, are recommended. For sale by druggists.



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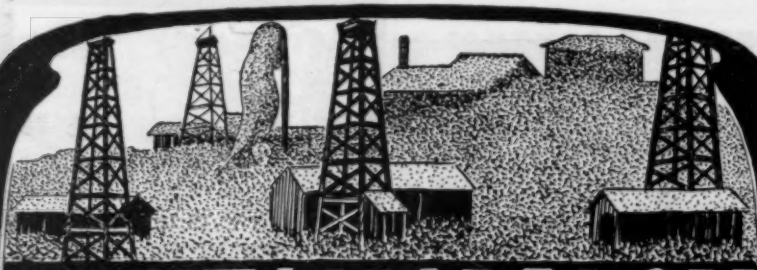

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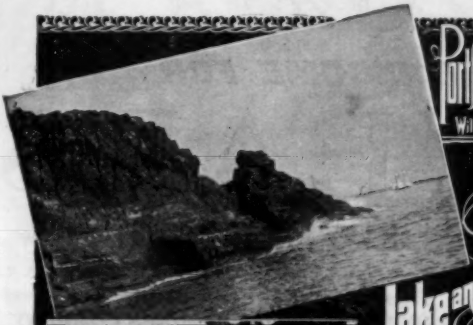

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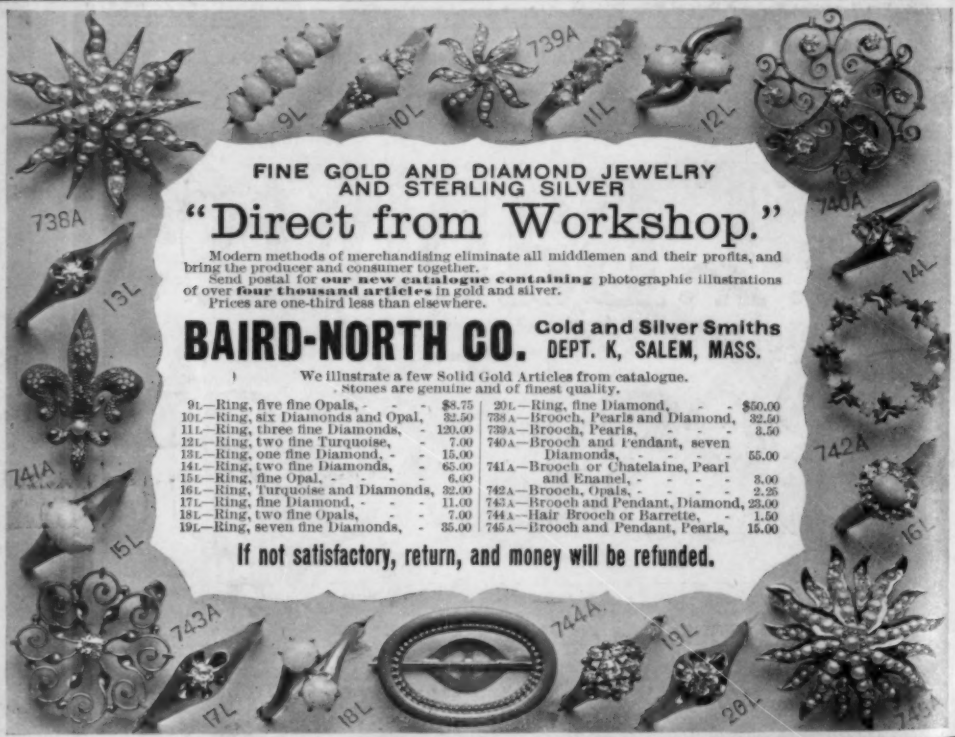

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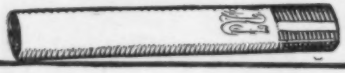

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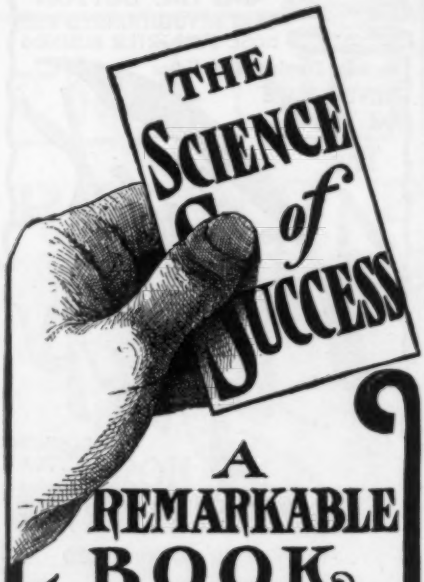

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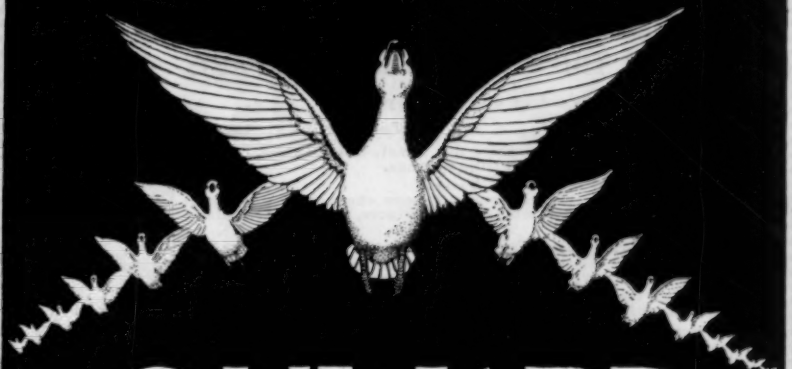

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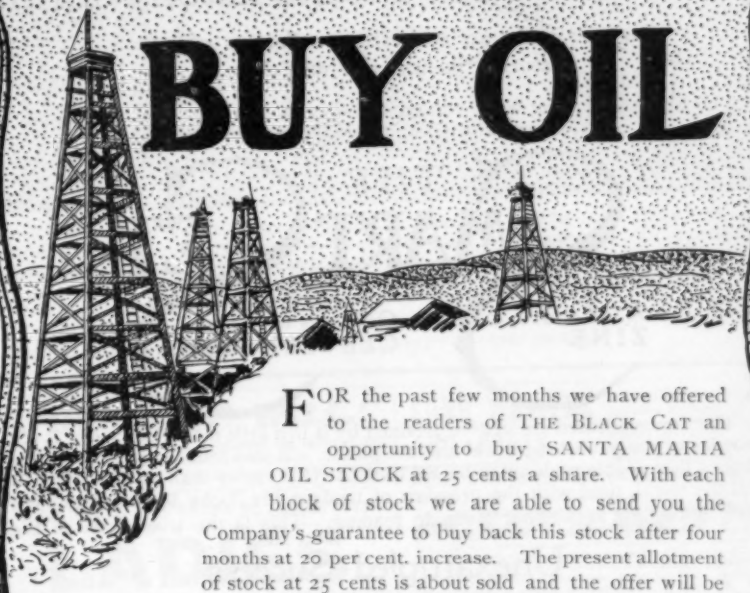

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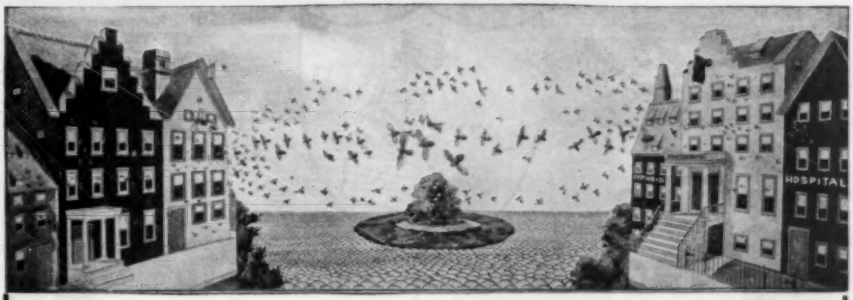

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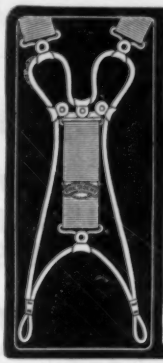

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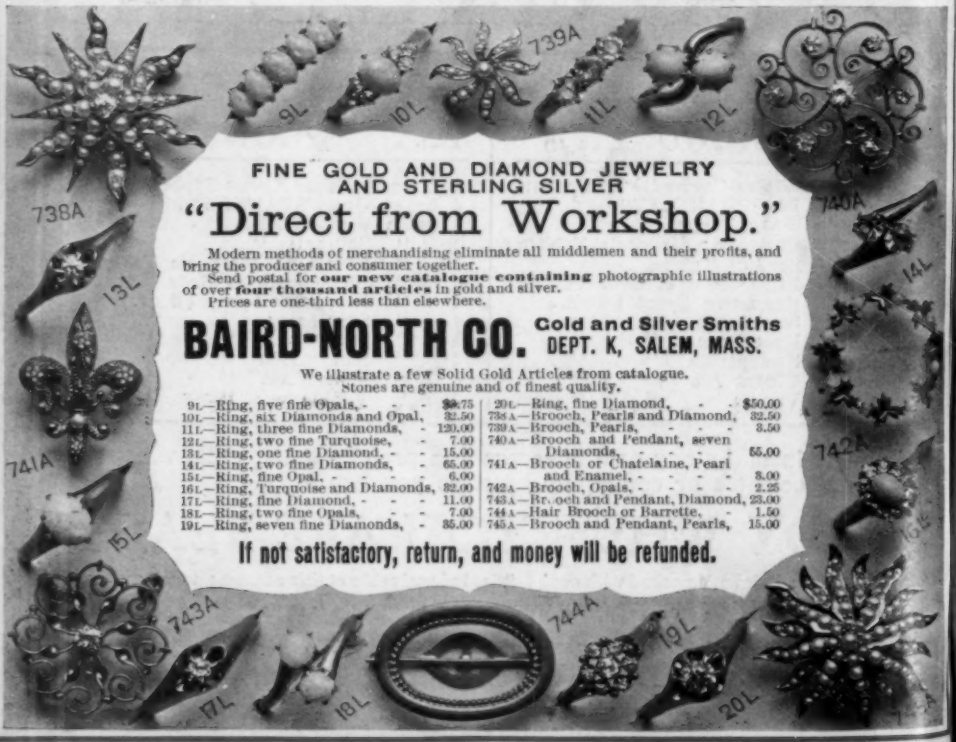

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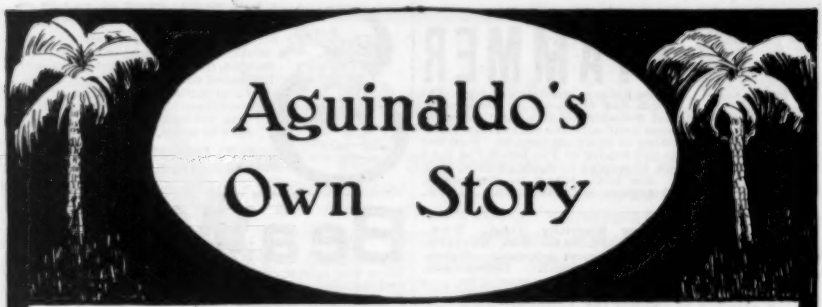

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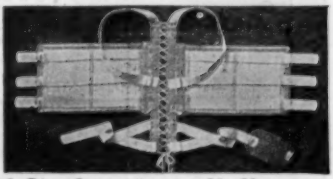

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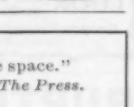

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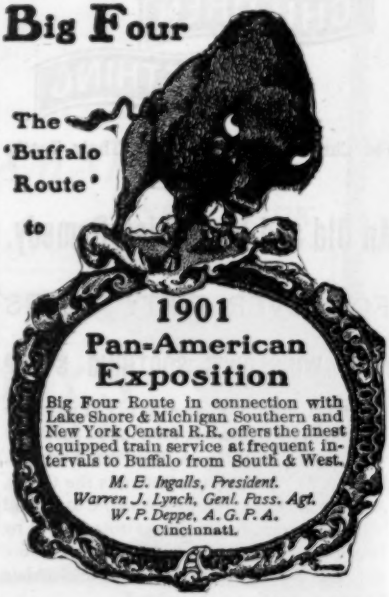
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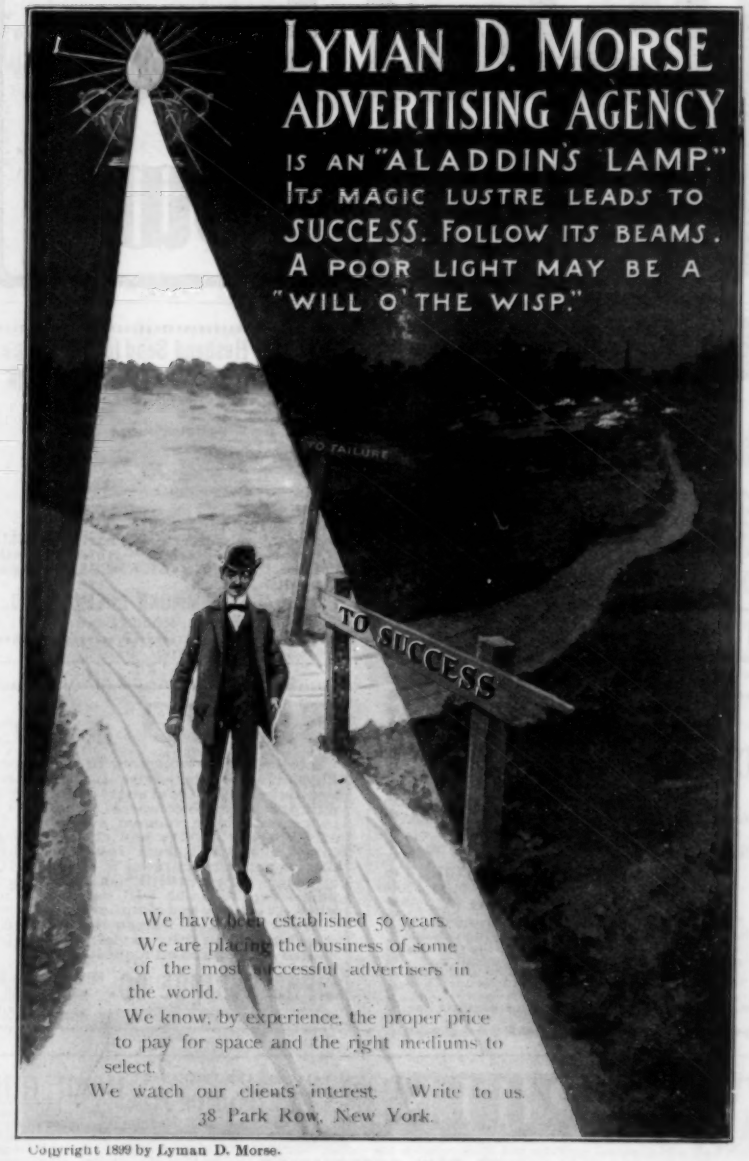
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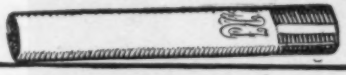

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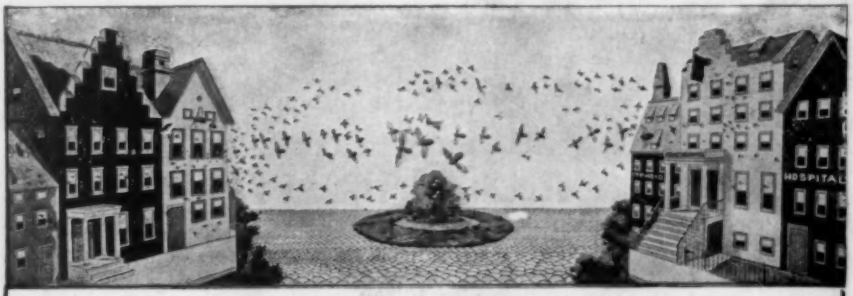

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SHAWKNIT half hose never fade, stain, or crock, neither do they lose their shape; they are knit to fit. As to wear, there's no stocking in the world their equal. This is no hearsay, but a fact. Ask any dealer, ask any one who really knows, what a SHAWKNIT sock is for wear. Are extra light weight, four threads throughout, finest combed and gassed lisle sea-island cotton yarns. Customers, when unable to buy from local dealers, should select colors by following stock numbers, and order from us. Made in the following colors:

Snowblack, XXs B. Havana Brown, XXs T. Royal Purple, XXs R. P. 50c. per pair; one half doz., $3.00.

Sent express or postage paid upon receipt of price to any address in the U. S. Sizes, 9 to 11½ inclusive. When ordering specify size and colors. **Sold by dealers. Be sure you get SHAWKNIT.** Our catalogue, with over eighty different styles and colorings, in **Cotton, Lisle, Merino, Wool, Linens, and Cashmeres,** sent free for the asking. **Our goods are sold by dealers. Ask for them.**

SHAW STOCKING COMPANY,

91 SHAW STREET, LOWELL, MASS.

The Skene

Automobile has the simplest and most reliable engine on the market. (This is acknowledged by our competitors.)

If you are interested in Automobiles send to us for one of our new catalogs and other information, which will interest every intending purchaser of an Automobile.

The Skene American Automobile Co.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., U. S. A.

Pozzoni's

MEDICATED COMPLEXION POWDER

has stood the test of forty years; ladies will have no other, because Pozzoni's is pure, healing to the skin, removes freckles and is harmless. Sample and beautiful booklet on application to

J.A. POZZONI CO.
NEW YORK OR ST. LOUIS

CHILDREN TEETHING

For Children While Cutting Their Teeth.

An Old and Well Tried Remedy

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP

has been used for over FIFTY YEARS by MILLIONS of MOTHERS for their CHILDREN WHILE TEETHING, with PERFECT SUCCESS. IT SOOTHES THE CHILD, SOFTENS the GUMS, ALLAYS all PAIN; CURES WIND COLIC, and is the best remedy for DIARRHŒA. Sold by Druggists in every part of the World. Be sure and ask for **Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup**, and take no other kind.

Twenty-five Cents a Bottle.

Corns Cured Free

ALLEN'S ANTISEPTIC CORN PLASTER *cures corns.* To prove it I will mail *free plaster* to any one. Send name and address — no money.

GEORGE M. DORRANCE, 221 Fulton St., Dept. I, New York.

SIPHO FOR LADIES

A toilet article necessary in every home. Physicians use and advise it. It consists of two nickel cylinders of quart capacity, with pumps between to compress air in one cylinder and create vacuum suction in the other. Open a valve and compressed air forces the liquid from reservoir, whilst the vacuum withdraws it to the other cylinder. The **SIPHO** has many useful purposes; no home will be without one when its efficacy and simplicity are known.

Every intelligent woman is requested to send for booklet fully explaining its uses; mailed sealed, free on request.

SIPHO SYRINGE CO. 803 Michigan St. RACINE, WIS.
or 2020 K, American Tract Building, NEW YORK CITY.

THE BUTTON THAT REVOLUTIONIZED THE HOSE SUPPORTER BUSINESS

No more Darning at the Knees
NEVER SLIPS OR TEARS

The *Velvet Grip* CUSHION BUTTON HOSE SUPPORTER

Sample pair, by mail, 25c.
Catalogue free

EVERY PAIR WARRANTED

No Stitching in the Elastic

LOOK For the Name on Every Loop

GEORGE FROST CO., Makers, Boston, Mass.

LADIES to do plain needlework for us at home, we furnish materials and pay $7 to $10 per week. Send stamped envelope to **STANDARD CO., Desk B.C., Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill.**

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE

CURES

Female Troubles,
Stooping Posture,
Inflammations,
Internal Pains,
Tired Feeling,
Backache,
Weak Lungs,
Nervousness.

TRIAL FREE.

It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, wholly external, adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset.

We have over 15,000 letters like this:

Chandler, Okla., July 27, 1899.

Your Brace did all you said about it and more for me. It has saved me a big doctor's bill and brought me good health, which I had not had before in 25 years. My troubles were dropsy, headache, lung disease, stomach and other ills to which women are subject. MRS. L. B. DICKINSON.

Write today for particulars and illustrated book mailed free in plain sealed envelope. Address
The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 50, Salina, Kansas.
Every woman should have this Brace.

Pabst beer is always pure

OIL--SMELTER--MINES.

Douglas, Lacey & Co.

Bankers, Brokers, Fiscal Agents,

Members N. Y. Consolidated Stock Exchange and Los Angeles, Cal., Stock Exchange.

66 BROADWAY AND 17 NEW STREET, NEW YORK.

DIVIDEND-PAYING MINING, OIL AND SMELTER STOCKS, LISTED AND UNLISTED, OUR SPECIALTY.

Booklets giving our successful plan of realizing the large profits of legitimate mining, oil and smelter investments, subscription blanks, full particulars, etc., sent free to any interested on application.

BRANCHES — Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Hartford and New Haven, Conn., Prescott, Ariz., Los Angeles, Cal., St. John, N. B., Montreal, Toronto, & London, Eng.

SEND $10. or more for California and Texas and other Western oil, mining and industrial stocks. Best choice mailed you at once. Don't wait. Refer to Los Angeles Banks. **B. F. FIELD, 109 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, California.**

RUPTURE If you are tired of wearing a truss **we guarantee** a radical painless cure at home without operation or detention from business. Address

THE DUANE CO., Box AA., Beaver Falls, Pa.

WHEN YOU BUY

a cigarette why not have your monogram, crest, club emblem or other design printed on each one?

We sell cigarettes direct to consumer saving purchaser at least 20%, and we make no extra charge for printing.

Samples sent for 20c. Price list free.

PINKUS BROS., Manufacturers,

56 NEW ST., NEW YORK CITY.

A Lucky Investment

To the readers of The Black Cat who have become interested in the "California King," and to others who have not, but should do so, we offer the following letter in good faith as corroborative evidence that this proposition is daily proving better than we have ever stated—and even better than we ourselves had expected. The proposition is positively safe and honest. We have the stock for sale. We want your name, and will then convince you that to invest with us will increase your income. If you want references we can furnish them.

Following is the letter above referred to.

New York, Aug. 3d, 1901.

Messrs. NOYES & DANA,
27 State St., Boston, Mass.

My Dear Sirs:—I am just in receipt of word from Senator Dorsey which is so pleasing that I hasten at once to transmit it to you. A short time since we directed the foreman at the mines, Mr. Guerra, to sink a shaft 50 feet deep at the extreme Eastern end of the Dulcinea claim where the open cut would begin, in order to determine exactly what we could count upon in the way of ore at the outset. We did not expect much from this as this was presumably the Eastern limit of the ore bodies, and being on the extreme edge would run very low; in fact, at the surface and for 15 or 20 feet down it ran only a trifle over a dollar a ton. I quote from Senator Dorsey's letter just received: "In the first place you will remember my writing to Guerra to sink the old shaft deeper on the Dulcinea where the open cut will begin. The old shaft was 20 feet deep and so low grade that I thought the ore had reached its end in that direction. Guerra found after going down a few feet that values began to increase and now at 50 feet it runs over $7.00 per ton. This is at the extreme Eastern end of the Dulcinea. To find ore 50 feet there, and it is still improving is a surprise, but to get $7.00 stuff knocks out all of our theories about 'low-grade around the edge.' This adds a hundred per cent. to the value of the mines."

I am very much elated at this and I think that so fine a showing will assist us here in our work. Very truly yours,

J. B. LANDFIELD, Jr., Treas.

Write for free booklet about investment.

NOYES & DANA, 27 State St., Boston, Mass.

To all Who Suffer from

Spinal Deformities

85 per cent. cheaper than the old methods. 100 per cent. better. Weighs ounces where others weigh pounds. For Men, Women and Children; none too young, none too old to be cured.

We offer the only Scientific Appliance ever invented for the relief and cure of this unsightly condition; cured Mr. P. B. Sheldon, the inventor, of curvature of the spine of 30 years' standing.

Throw away the cumbersome and expensive plaster-of-paris and sole-leather jackets.

Our Appliance is light in weight, durable and conforms to the body as not to evidence that a support is worn. It is constructed on strictly scientific anatomical principles, and is truly a godsend to all sufferers from spinal troubles, male or female. We also make Scientific Appliances for protruding abdomen, weak back, stooping shoulders. Send for free booklet and letters from physician physical instructors, and those who know from experience of our wonderful appliances. Free trial can be arranged. Price, **$4** to **$25.**

STEAMBURG, N. Y., Feb. 9, 1901.

After having worn the plaster-of-paris jackets, I can truthfully say your appliance is far more comfortable to wear. It corrects curvature quite as well and fits the body so perfectly that no one would suspect I was wearing one. You have my life-long gratitude and well wishes. IDA BLOOD.

☞ *The plaster-of-paris jacket above mentioned weighed* 8 1-4 *lbs. The Philo Burt Appliance put on in its place weighed* 17 *ounces—a difference of* 11 *ounces.* **Agents Wanted. Liberal Commissions.**

THE PHILO BURT MFG. CO.
33 THIRD ST., JAMESTOWN, N.Y.

"REVERSIBLE" Linene Collars & Cuffs.

MANY ADVANTAGES.

Perfect in fit, never ragged or uncomfortable. Very convenient, stylish, economical. Made of fine cloth and exactly resemble linen goods. Turn down collars are reversible and give double service.

NO LAUNDRY WORK.

When soiled, discard. **Ten collars or five pairs of cuffs, 25c. By mail, 30c.** Send 6c. in stamps for sample collar or pair of cuffs. Name size and style.

REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., Dept. O, Boston.

The FACE, NECK and FORM!

Physicians advise our guaranteed simple home treatment for filling out hollows in the neck and face, removing wrinkles and especially

DEVELOPING THE FORM.

Improves the health while perfecting the figure. Our method appeals to common sense and intelligence. Free booklet, postage, 4c.

THE NATURE CO.
Suite 4, 41 West 24th Street, New York.
WOMEN SPECIALISTS IN CHARGE.

MENNEN'S BORATED TALCUM TOILET POWDER

A Positive Relief for **PRICKLY HEAT, CHAFING, and SUNBURN,** and all afflictions of the skin.

"A little higher in price, perhaps, than worthless substitutes, but a reason for it." Removes all odor of perspiration. Delightful after Shaving.

Sold everywhere, or mailed on receipt of 25c. Get Mennen's (the original.) *Sample free.* GERHARD MENNEN CO., Newark, N. J.

TO FAT PEOPLE

I can reduce your weight 3 to 5 pounds a week without any radical change in what you eat; no nauseating drugs, no tight bandages, no sickening cathartics. **I am a regular practising physician, making a specialty of** the reduction of surplus flesh; and after you have taken my treatment a few weeks you will say: "I never felt better in my life."

SAFE, PROMPT AND CERTAIN.

By my treatment your weight will be reduced without causing wrinkles or flabbiness of skin; heavy abdomen, double chin or other evidences of obesity will disappear; your form will acquire symmetry; complexion will be cleared; troubles of heart, kidneys, stomach or other organs will be remedied; and you will be delightfully astonished at the promptness and ease with which these results are accomplished under my system. Satisfaction guaranteed. Write for my new pamphlet, on "Obesity, Its Cause and Cure," which will be sent sealed in plain envelope. It will convince you. Mention The Black Cat when writing.

HENRY C. BRADFORD, M. D.
24 East 23d Street, NEW YORK

KLIP-KLIP THE POCKET MANICURE

A unique little toilet article for the pocket. **It trims, files, shapes and cleans, and keeps the nails in perfect condition. A complete manicure for man, woman, or child.** Silver steel, nickel-plated, sent **25c.** post-paid on receipt of price if your dealer hasn't it.

KLIP-KLIP CO., Dept. T, Rochester, N. Y.

Constipation

POSITIVELY **CURED**

Appendicitis Prevented

by Dr. Berry's Rational Treatment.

No Drugs, No Medicines, No Apparatus ;

a treatment without the use of Laxatives, Aperient Waters, Injections, Suppositories Drugs or Medicines. Your case may be of long standing, but my treatment, which is inexpensive, will **cure you permanently without fail.**

Thousands Testify to Complete and Permanent Cures.

Brain Workers, people of Sedentary Occupations, Ladies who live mostly indoors, Traveling Men and to all who suffer from Constipation,

STOP USING DRUGS The outcome will prove fatal

Appendicitis, Piles, Inflammation of the Bowels, Typhoid Fever, Kidney Troubles and a score of other ills result from CONSTIPATION.

A request from you will bring free by mail full information and positive proof that Constipation and all attending ills can be cured speedily, absolutely, permanently, by this exclusive, inexpensive system which I have perfected after 17 years of study and practice.

DR. M. H. BERRY,
372 & 374 Good Block, **Des Moines, Ia.**

Makes Women Beautiful

Marvelous development accomplished by the new and wonderful "Vestro" method of enlarging the Female Bust.

Flat-chested and unattractive women are quickly developed into commanding figures that excite wonderment and admiration.

A new and surprisingly effective home treatment has been discovered that enlarges the female bust at least six inches. Women who are not lacking in this respect will not be particularly interested, but those who by some unfortunate circumstance of health or occupation are deficient in this development will be very much fascinated by the peculiar prominence achieved by the treatment. It is called "Vestro" and is controlled by the well known Aurum Medicine Co.

There is no doubt about the marvelous power of this new treatment to develop the bust to a gratifying extent. Any lady who wishes to know more about Vestro should send her name and address to the Aurum Medicine Co. They will send free, in plain sealed envelope by mail, a new "beauty book" they have just prepared, also photographs from life showing the actual development induced and a great number of testimonials from physicians, chemists and prominent ladies all commending the wonderful and remarkable power of Vestro to enlarge the bust no matter how flat the chest may be. Do not fail to write at once. The beauty book and portraits will delight you. All you need do is to send name and address and a two-cent stamp to pay postage. Address

AURUM MEDICINE CO., Dept. D. A., 55 State St., Chicago.

HAIR SWITCH FREE

On Easy Conditions

Cut this ad. out and mail to us. Send a small sample of your hair, cut close to roots. **SEND NO MONEY.** We will make and send you by mail, postpaid, a **FINE HUMAN HAIR SWITCH** made 22 inches long from selected human hair, 2½ inches, short stem. We will inclose in package with switch sufficient postage to return it to to us **if not entirely satisfactory,** but if found exactly as represented and most extraordinary value and you wish to keep it, **either send us $1.50 by mail within 10 days,** or **TAKE ORDERS FOR 5 SWITCHES AT $1.50 EACH** among your friends and send to us without any money, we to send the switches to them direct by mail, to be paid for 10 days after received, if perfectly satisfactory, **and you can have the switch we send you free for your trouble.**

This style of pompadour is very light in weight. The soft, wavy hair is combed over one's own hair, and can not be told from the natural, producing an elegant and very becoming effect. When ordering, send sample of your hair, state dimensions from ear to ear over top of head, and if or without frizzes to the face. **Price each $3.00** for all ordinary shades, sent on approval. Order a switch or pompadour at once, or write to-day for free premium offer. Address

LADIES' HAIR EMPORIUM, Dept. D, CHICAGO.

YOUR FUTURE

can be told. Your destiny is plainly written in your hands. You can read it for yourself. Our finely illustrated free book tells how. It will show you how to make more money; how to determine what vocation to follow to be most successful; how to gain love, affluence, power; how to read the character, life and secrets of every human being with whom you come in contact; how to develop the subtle power of **Personal Magnetism** and control the thoughts and actions of others. We guarantee success or forfeit $1,000 in gold. The book is enthusiastically endorsed by leading clergymen, business and professional men. Write for a copy to-day. Remember it is **Free, Absolutely Free.** A postal card will bring it. Address **Columbia Scientific Academy,** Dept. 9P **1931 Broadway, N. Y.**

OPIUM

MORPHINE habit cured in 10 to 20 days. 30,000 cases cured. NO PAY TILL CURED. Address DR. **J. L STEPHENS CO. Dept B.9 Lebanon, Ohio.**

MYSELF CURED

I will gladly inform anyone addicted to **COCAINE. MORPHINE. OPIUM OR LAUDANUM,** of a never-failing harmless Home Cure. Address **MRS. M.I. BALDWIN, P. O. Box 1212, Chicago, Ill.**

MORPHINE

PAINLESS AND PERMANENT **A Trial Treatment Free.** **HOME CURE**

Sent to anyone addicted to the use of Morphine, Opium or other drug habit. Contains Vital Principle heretofore unknown and lacking in all others. We restore the nervous and physical systems and thus remove the cause. Confidential correspondence invited from all.

ST. PAUL ASSOCIATION, **46 B Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill.**

In
Principle
and
Practice
the

PRESIDENT SUSPENDER

is superior to any suspender you can wear. Constructed on a scientific principle that gives comfort under all conditions. Adjusts itself to every bend of the body. The genuine has "President" on the buckles. Every pair guaranteed. Trimmings can not rust. Sold everywhere, 50 cts., or by mail.

C. A. EDGARTON MFG. CO., Box 201, Shirley, Mass.

MAGIC LANTERNS

STEREOPTICONS AND VIEWS

for Public Exhibitions, Church Entertainments, for illustrating sermons. Many sizes, all prices. Chance for men with little capital to **make money.** 260 page catalogue **free.**

McALLISTER. Mfg. Optician, 49 Nassau Street, N. Y.

ARE YOU SHORT?

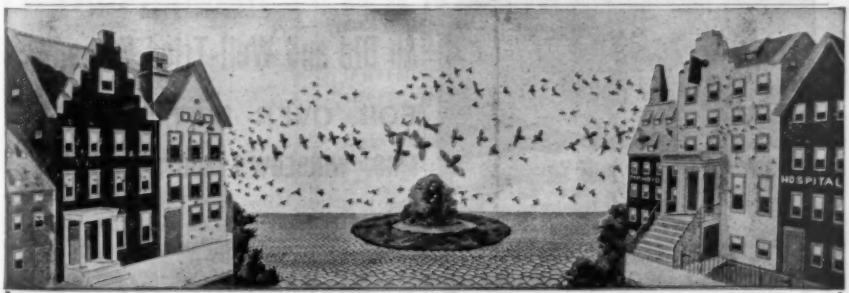
Gilbert's Heel Cushions

"Worn inside the shoe."

Increase Height, Arch the Instep. Make Better Fitting Shoes. Remove Jar in Walking. Indorsed by physicians. Simply placed in the heel, felt down. Do not require larger shoes. 1-2 in. 25c., 3-4 in. 35c., 1 in. 50c. per pair. At shoe and department stores.

READ Send name, size of shoe, height desired and two-cent stamp for pair on 10 days' trial.

GILBERT MFG. CO., 50 Elm St., Rochester, N.Y.



These dwellings are near a hospital, as is often the case in large cities. The cut illustrates how flies carry contagion from sick rooms into our homes. To prevent flies from infecting us no surer means is available than

TANGLEFOOT STICKY FLY PAPER.

All other methods fall short of catching the GERM as well as the FLY, as it coats them both over with a varnish from which they can never escape.

EIGHT DOLLARS AND 95 CTS

BUYS THIS HIGH GRADE, HIGH ARM FIVE-DRAWER SOLID POLISHED ANTIQUE OAK CABINET DROP HEAD Genuine OHIO SEWING MACHINE. You need not send one cent, but cut this ad. out and send to us, and we will send the machine to you by freight C. O. D., subject to examination, you can examine it at your railroad station and if found perfectly satisfactory, strictly high grade and equal to sewing machines that retail at $30.00 to $40.00, then pay the railroad agent OUR SPECIAL PRICE, $8.95 and freight charges.

IF YOU SEND $8.95 with your order you will save 30 to 50 cents express charges on return of money to us, (nearly every one sends cash in full). THREE MONTHS' FREE TRIAL. We agree to return your money any time within three months if you become dissatisfied for any reason. Every machine guaranteed 20 years. Only 1,200 machines to be sold below cost to build. ONLY..... $8.95

A BONANZA CHANCE FOR MERCHANTS, DEALERS AND AGENTS TO STOCK UP. WRITE FOR IT. OUR NEW FREE SEWING MACHINE CATALOGUE WILL ASTONISH YOU.

Address your orders plainly to SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago, Ill.

WEALTH

High Prices Paid for Old Coins and Stamps. Send 10c. for Book of Prices. **Emerson Supply Co., Charlestown, N. H.**

A Thing Worth Knowing.

No need of cutting off a woman's breast or a man's cheek or nose in a vain attempt to cure cancer. No need of applying burning plasters to the flesh and torturing those already weak from suffering. Soothing, balmy, aromatic oils give safe, speedy and certain cure. The most horrible forms of cancer of the face, breast, womb, mouth, stomach; large tumors, ugly ulcers, fistula, catarrh; terrible skin diseases, etc., are all successfully treated by the application of various forms of simple oils. Send for a book, mailed free, giving particulars and prices of Oils. Address DR. D. M. BYE CO., BOX 325, Indianapolis, Ind.

FAT

How to reduce it

Mr. Hugo Horn, 344 E. 65th St., New York City, writes: "It reduced my weight 40 lbs. three years ago, and I have not gained an ounce since." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc.

Hall Chemical Co.,
Dept K A, ST. LOUIS, MO.

20 COIN-OPERATING PEANUT VENDING MACHINES FOR VENDING SALTED SHELLED PEANUTS

Will pay a Net Profit of $5.00 PER DAY $150.00 PER MONTH, $1,800 PER YEAR.

A High-Class Business which may be started with one machine at a cost of a few dollars and others added from the profits. When placed with stores on shares one-half of receipts is profit to the owner of the machine.

JUST THE THING for people who are employed on salary to work as a side line until they get enough machines that they can give up their position for a business of their own. At the same time it appeals to capitalists who would wish to engage in the business on a large scale. A NEW PROPOSITION WITH WONDERFUL POSSIBILITIES. Write for Circulars; it will surprise you.

OUR NEW AUTOMATIC PACKAGE VENDING MACHINE may be used for either Salted Peanuts or Confections. Agents wanted.

ENTERPRISE VENDING MACHINE CO. (INC.)
Dept, G 1 53 Franklin St. Chicago, Ill.

Self Playing Brass Band Instruments

"Wm. F. ——, director of above band, says: Zobo instruments first-class. Just what we needed. Have 14-piece Zobo band. Intend to enlarge it. Have had one Zobo concert. Was a great success."

A Real Novelty for Entertainments & Outings

Only solid brass instruments everybody can play. No instruction, no musical knowledge required. If you can hum a tune you can play a Zobo. Organize a Zobo band and make money for your church or club. Illustrated catalog tells how

Special Offer 25c will bring you, prepaid, the wonderful Zobo and catalog. Money refunded if not as represented.

STRAUSS MFG. CO., 369 B'way, Dept. 20, New York

CHILDREN TEETHING

For Children While Cutting Their Teeth.

An Old and Well-Tried Remedy.

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP

has been used for over FIFTY YEARS by MILLIONS of MOTHERS for their CHILDREN WHILE TEETHING, with PERFECT SUCCESS. IT SOOTHES the CHILD, SOFTENS the GUMS. ALLAYS all PAIN; CURES WIND COLIC, and is the best remedy for DIARRHŒA. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Be sure and ask for ***Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup*** and take no other kind.

The Black Cat's Story Tellers' Tournament Now Open

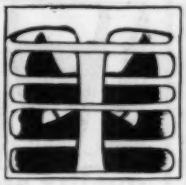
OR the man or woman who has a story to tell here is the opportunity. As name or reputation count for absolutely nothing with The Black Cat, it matters not who you are or what you are; but it matters very decidedly what you tell and how you tell it. It is also of prime importance that your story be original—your own creation—and submitted in accordance with the printed conditions. All contestants cannot win; but all have an even chance. The fact that The Black Cat has blazed the path of profit for hundreds of unknown writers, that no one connected with it is personally acquainted with even one out of fifty of those who have gained admission to its columns—these facts show that in its contests the man from Borneo has precisely the same chance of success as the man from Boston, provided his story is of equal merit. The world, moreover, never lent so eager an ear to the story teller as it does today, and he who fails and feels that his efforts have not met with proper recognition will find consolation and profit in knowing that other publishers are looking for the sort of tales that have made The Black Cat famous. The merit and marketable quality of a "Black Cat Story" are shown by the fact that today some of the foremost newspapers in the United States and England are paying for the privilege of reproducing the tales that have appeared in The Black Cat this year, last year, any year.

Rich Rewards For Creative Brains $10,285.00 In Prizes

THE Black Cat leaves it to other publications to have written to order, at so much per thousand words, stories by famous writers and to publicly praise such stories before they are written. Yet from the outset The Black Cat has paid from five to ten times as much as was ever before paid for short stories, provided the finished product was submitted to it for examination and found available. It has paid as high as $1,500 for a story of 4,000 words, and it is a significant fact that while it has purchased tales from writers all over the world it has never, in its six years' experience, placed a price upon a story that was declined by its author. While other publications pay according to length The Black Cat pays according to strength. It does this because it appreciates the fact that greater skill, care and art are required to tell and to tell well the average story in 3,000 words than to tell it in 5,000 words. Hence it urges competitors to put into their efforts the sort of hard writing that makes easy reading.

The prizes in this contest surpass, in liberality and originality, any ever awarded. The Black Cat is determined that its readers shall have the best stories that skill and genius can produce and money can buy, and each one of its multitude of readers will confer a favor upon others as well as upon the publishers, by bringing this prize tournament to the notice of any who have stories to tell.

Prize Trip Circling The Globe Costing $2,100 Consuming 179 Days



To stimulate interest, the prizes, aggregating $10,285, include a series of special awards, each of which is believed to be equal to the best of its kind obtainable. Their values as given are not inflated list prices but actual cash selling prices. Here is the list:

$2,100 TRIP FROM BOSTON ENCIRCLING THE WORLD, over the most comfortable, interesting, approved lines of travel, touching leading centres of interest in America, Europe and the Orient, including first-class accommodations everywhere, and consuming 179 days. This is not a race around the globe in which the tourist keeps his eye on the time table and his hand in his pocket, but the most luxurious, instructive and fascinating tour our planet affords. The trip will be under the direction of the Raymond & Whitcomb Company, who, as caterers to those desiring the best on land and sea, have earned the world over the reputation of kings of their profession. Detailed particulars will be given in future issues of The Black Cat.

SKENE AUTOMOBILE, SURREY MODEL NO. 5, $1,300. This modern, up-to-date vehicle is not one of the experiments but an accomplished success. It is propelled by steam, the standard motive power of the world, and specially constructed for touring and long runs; seats four and has canopy top for protection from sun or rain.

$500 CROWN PIANO:

A Thousand Dollars And Glory For A Black Cat Story

ITH its ten years' warrant burned in the back, the Crown Piano bears the highest reputation, because of the quality and variety of its tone, even scale, responsive touch and superior construction. It possesses the "practice clavier" so desirable for student, teacher and artist.

ROUND TRIP FROM BOSTON TO CALIFORNIA. 20 days from Boston to San Francisco and return over the following model railroads:—Boston & Albany; New York Central; Lake Shore; Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe. Including first-class accommodations, sleeping berth, meals en route and $5 cash daily ($100) for expenses.

THE ANGELUS, $250. That marvellous instrument whereby any one can at once play any piano with the touch and technique of an artistic musician. A prize which will double the value and pleasure of a piano in any home.

ROUND TRIP TO CUBA. 15 days from Boston to Havana and return, via New York. First-class accommodations with $5 daily ($75) for expenses.

FOX WRITING MACHINE, $110. The Fox costs a trifle more than old-fashioned writing-machines, but possesses original points, including ball-bearing carriage, which make it well worth the money. Its users are its loudest praisers.

OLIVER TYPEWRITER, $100. Writes in sight, holds Paris Exposition Gold Medal, has superseded the old timers in hundreds of leading establishments. None better.

Princely Prizes They Will Win Who The Cleverest Stories Spin

AS heretofore, the founder and publisher of The Black Cat will pass final judgment on the stories submitted. No one can possibly have so great an interest in the magazine as he has, and as its success in the future, as in the past, depends upon the excellence of its stories, he personally will be the greatest loser in case the public fails to sustain his judgment. He feels, moreover, that in taking this course, he is simply exercising what is recognized the world over as a buyer's right: that he who pays his money is entitled to his choice. That his decision will be free from prejudice and favoritism of any kind the complete records will conclusively show, and the records, whether of this or any other contest, are at all times open to the scrutiny of any competitor.

The requirement that each manuscript be accompanied by an annual subscription to The Black Cat is necessary as a check upon wholesale offerings of carelessly prepared and undesirable stories. The cost alone of handling the manuscripts -- recording, reading, returning -- will far exceed the amount received from subscriptions, and as the total outlay connected with the competition will exceed $30,000 the profits from subscription receipts cut absolutely no figure.

To facilitate careful consideration and to ensure the promptest decision, all competitors are urged to submit their manuscripts at the earliest possible date.

BELOW is a list of the prizes. The capital prize--first-class tour of the world ticket--will be delivered to the winner with check covering expenses to Boston and return. The same applies to the 6th and 17th prizes. All cash prizes will be paid by certified check on The International Trust Company, of Boston. The Automobile, Piano, Angelus and Typewriters will be delivered, freight prepaid, at any railway station.

Total Prizes $10,285

1st.	Tour of The World, 179 days, (See page xv)	Actual Cost	$2,100
2d.	Skene Automobile, (See page xv)	Actual Cost	1,300
3d.	Cash		1,000
4th.	Cash		500
5th.	Crown Piano, (See page xvi)	Actual Cost	500
6th.	Round Trip, Boston to San Francisco, (See page xvi)		350
7th.	Cash		300
8th.	Cash		300
9th.	Angelus, (See page xvi)	Actual Cost	250
10th.	Cash		200
11th.	Cash		200
12th.	Cash		200
13th.	Cash		150
14th.	Cash		150
15th.	Cash		150
16th.	Cash		150
17th.	Round Trip, Boston to Cuba, (See page xvi)		150
18th.	Cash		125
19th.	Cash		125
20th.	Cash		125
21st.	Cash		125
22d.	Cash		125
23d.	Fox Typewriter,	Actual Cost	110
24th.	Oliver Typewriter, (See page xvi)	Actual Cost	100
25th to 39th.	15 Cash Prizes at $100 each		1,500

COMPETITORS may choose their own themes. We especially desire, however, stories in which the morbid, unnatural and unpleasant are avoided rather than emphasized. Good, clean, humorous tales are desirable. No dialect stories, translations, plays or poems will be considered; nor any story not submitted strictly in accordance with the conditions. We want original stories, out of the ordinary, free from commonplace and padding, and interesting throughout.

Conditions:

1. Each manuscript must bear at the top of the first page the writer's real name and address, in full (if it is desired that the story be published under a pen name that must likewise be given), as also the number of words it contains, which may range from 1,500 to 6,000, but must not exceed the latter. Other things being equal, the shorter of two stories will be preferred.

2. Manuscripts must be plainly written (with typewriter or pen) on one side of paper only, on sheets not larger than 8 x 11 inches, must be sent unrolled, *postage or express charges fully prepaid*, and accompanied by addressed and stamped envelopes for return. Letters advising submittal of stories must be *enclosed with manuscripts*, not sent separately. Manuscripts will be received and returned only at writers' risk. Upon our payment for a story the author relinquishes to us all rights thereto of whatsoever nature.

3. Every story must be strictly original and must, neither wholly nor in part, have appeared in print in any language. Every story will be judged solely on its own merits; the name or fame of a writer will carry absolutely no weight. And furthermore, every story will be valued, not in accordance with its length, but with its worth as a story.

4. With every manuscript there must be enclosed, in the same envelope, one yearly subscription to THE BLACK CAT, together with 50 cents to pay therefor. On subscriptions to foreign countries 24 cents must be added for postage. All money should be sent by draft, postal money order, express money order or registered letter. One- or-two-cent postage stamps in perfect condition will also be accepted. If competitors are already subscribers to THE BLACK CAT or submit more than one manuscript, their existing subscriptions will, if desired, be extended or the new ones may be taken in the names of other parties. Any competitor may send as many stories as desired, but with each story all conditions must be complied with.

5. All envelopes containing manuscripts as above must be plainly marked "For Competition" and addressed, "The Shortstory Publishing Company, 144 High Street, Boston, Mass." Their receipt will be acknowledged.

6. The competition will close February 26, 1902. The awards will be paid within 60 days thereafter, and announced in the earliest possible issue of THE BLACK CAT. Should two stories of equal merit be considered worthy of a prize, the prize will be either doubled or divided.

7. For stories unsuccessful in the competition but deemed desirable, we will either award special prizes, of not less than $100 each, or make a cash offer. All unsuccessful manuscripts, submitted as above, will be returned after the contest has closed. The conditions and requirements being here fully set forth, we cannot enter into correspondence relative thereto.

Important. *As no story will be considered unless all the above conditions are complied with, competitors should make sure that their manuscripts are prepared strictly in accordance therewith, are securely sealed in strong envelopes, and fully prepaid. Don't hold your story till the latest moment, but send it as soon as ready, thus facilitating earliest possible decision.*

The Shortstory Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

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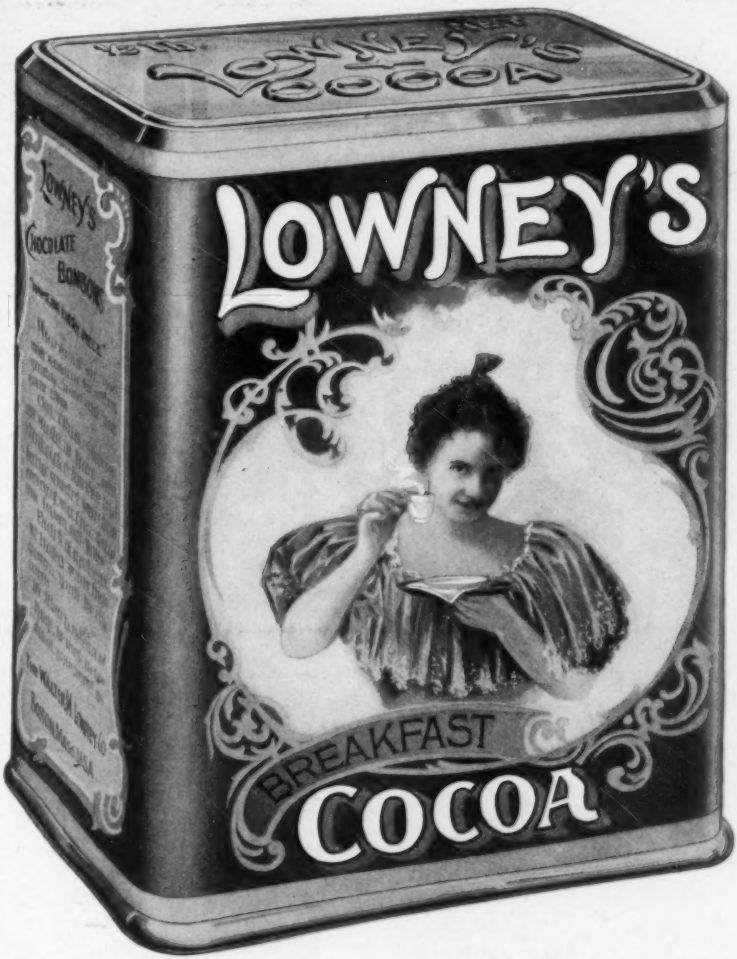

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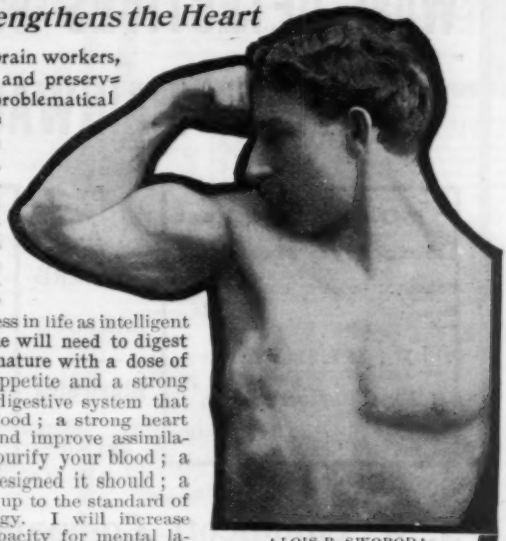

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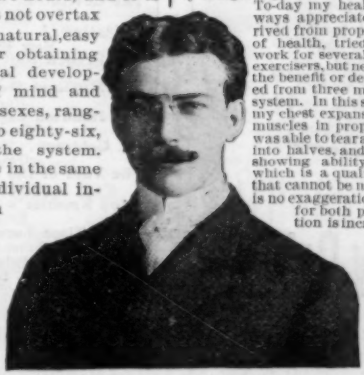

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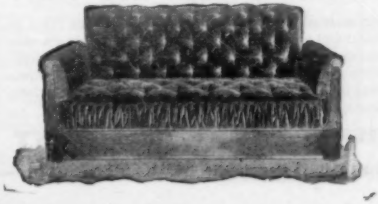

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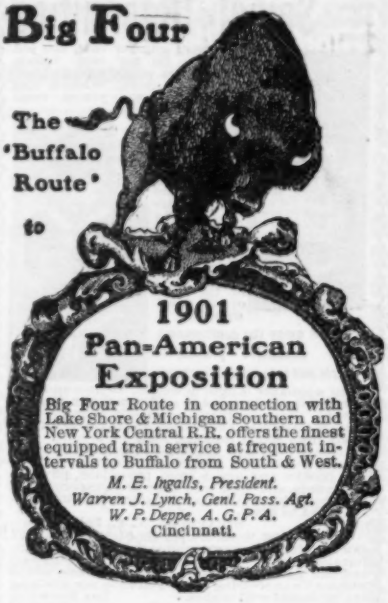

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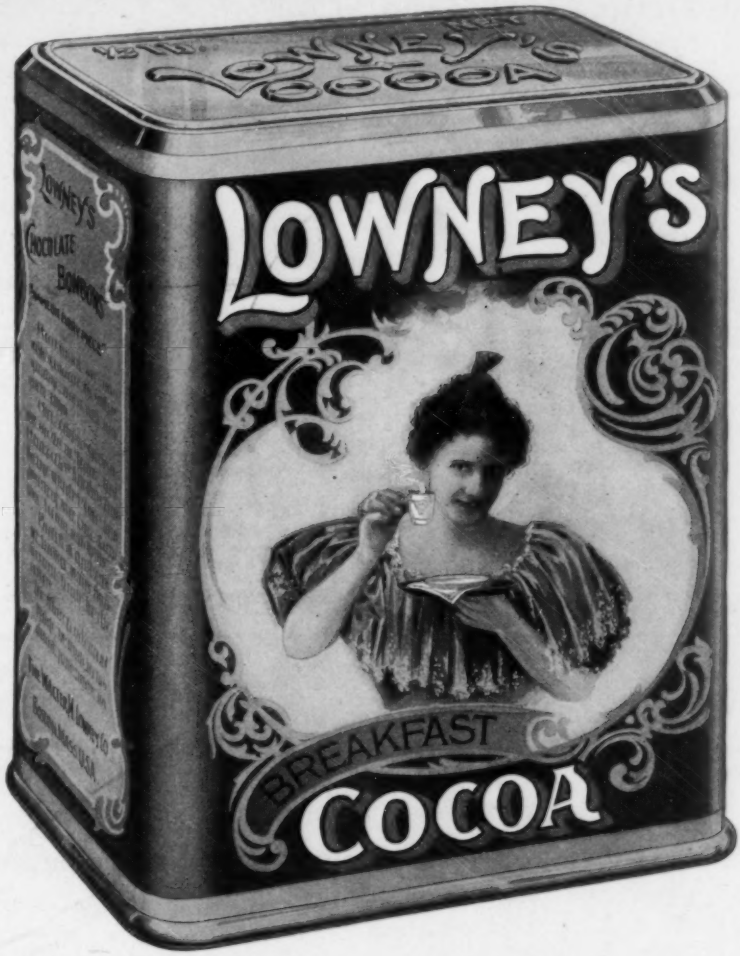

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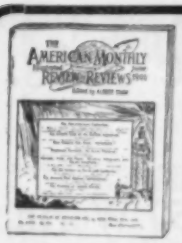

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To the Public:

We desire to make the following statement regarding the progress of affairs of The California King Gold Mines Company: —

First: — The Company has entered into a contract with the Colorado Iron Works of Denver Colorado, for the construction of the mill, and the first payment has been made on the contract, and all subsequent payments arranged for. The Colorado Iron Works guarantees that the mill will be completed not later than the first of March, 1902, but expects to complete it before the middle of January. This Company further guarantees the mill to treat 1,000 tons of ore per day. One of their engineers informs our Company's officials, after carefully testing and sampling the ore, that, on account of its great friability, in his opinion the mill will treat from 1,200 to 1,400 tons daily. This Company also guarantees to run the mill for 30 days before turning it over to our Company, to insure absolute satisfaction. Our Company feels very much pleased in obtaining this contract, as the Colorado Iron Works is the best fitted Company in the country to build such a mill as we need.

Secondly: — Our Company recently had several tons of its ore treated by Wade & Wade, Analytical Chemists and Assayers of Los Angeles, California. The ore treated was picked up haphazard over all parts of the mine, and was a fair sample. It shows a trifle over $6 per ton in gold, and after 48 hours' treatment by cyanide shows 94% gold saved. A copy of their full report will be mailed to you on application if you desire it.

Thirdly: — We quote a telegram which was received from Senator Pettigrew, one of our Directors, who is at present at the mine, and has just made a careful examination of the property:

Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 30, 1901.
Stephen W. Dorsey, 32 Broadway, New York.
"Have just returned from the mines. Richer than represented. Are you coming West?
(Signed) PETTIGREW."

Fourthly: — We wish to quote a letter which was received by our Mr. Noyes from Mr. Davis, one of the most prominent mining engineers in the country, and whose father was at one time General Superintendent of the great Calumet and Hecla Copper Mine. Mr. Davis is engineer for the American Mining Company, and made an expert examination of our property for a party of Philadelphia capitalists who have since subscribed for a very large block of our stock. The letter speaks for itself. It is as follows: —

AMERICAN MINING COMPANY, LOS ANGELES, CAL.
Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 21, 1901.
Edmund H. Noyes, Houghton, Mich.

Dear Sir: — Your favor of the 16th inst. is received in which you ask my opinion of the California King Gold Mines, situated at Placho, California. In reply can say that I have made careful examination of these mines, and can conscientiously endorse all the report upon the property as set forth in the Company's prospectus and can heartily recommend the stock to my friends as a good investment. Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. B. DAVIS.

Finally: — The price of the stock will advance the first of November next; consequently, if you wish to get your stock at $3 per share, it will be necessary for you to subscribe before that date.

We trust that these items of information will convince you of the great worth of our property if you are not already convinced, and we hope that you will add to your holdings, if you are already so fortunate as to be a stockholder, and if not, that you will favor us with a generous subscription at as early a date as possible. NOYES & DANA.

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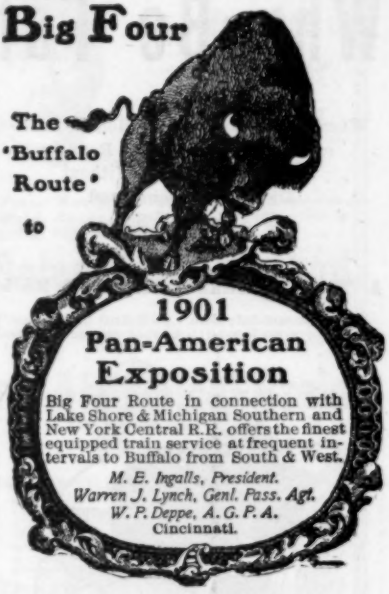

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Put in colander

Don't
Cook

Salt the water

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2. Put a liberal amount of salt into a little boiling water
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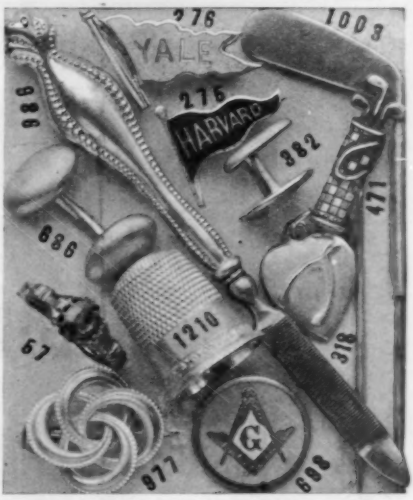

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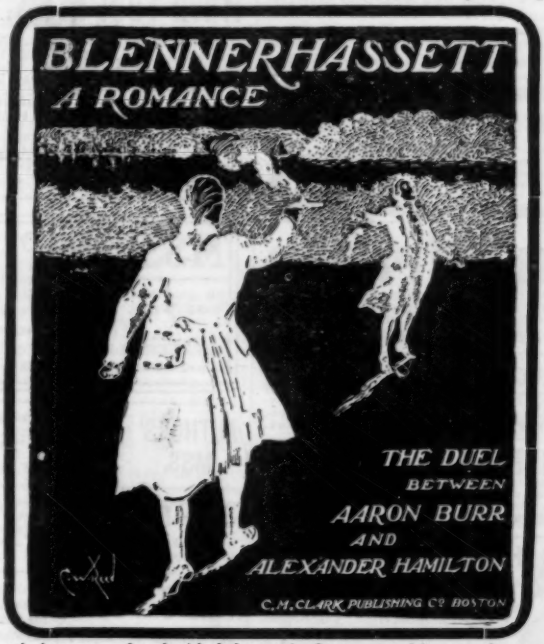

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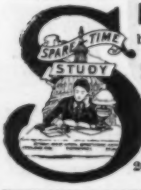

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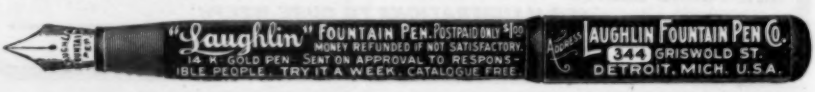
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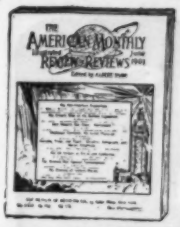

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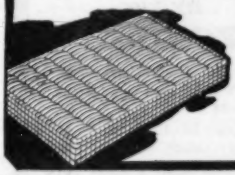

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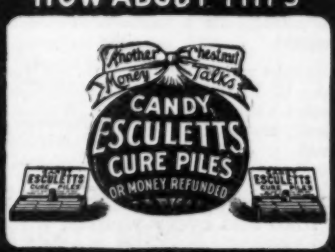

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239 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

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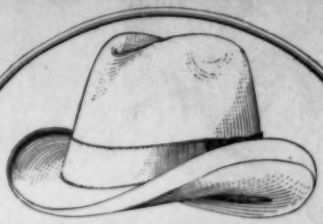

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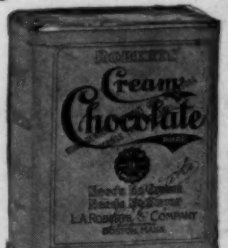

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